



March 1, 2025

Senator Gary Stevens  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Sent via email to Senator.Gary.Stevens@ak.leg.gov

Dear Senator Stevens,

On behalf of the American Lung Association in Alaska, I want to express our support for Senate Bill 24 and extend our gratitude for your leadership in advancing policies that protect the health of Alaskan youth and all residents from the harms of tobacco and nicotine addiction.

Our annual *State of Tobacco Control Report* provides evidence-based policy recommendations for reducing tobacco use, and Senate Bill 24 directly addresses two critical areas of concern:

1. Implementing a Tax on Electronic Smoking Devices

Electronic smoking devices, which have surged in popularity among youth, contain harmful and addictive chemicals. These products deliver not only high levels of nicotine, leading to long-term dependence, but also toxic substances like heavy metals (nickel, tin, lead) and ultrafine particles that can penetrate deep into the lungs and bloodstream, contributing to inflammation and systemic harm. These devices are not FDA-approved cessation tools and should be taxed similarly to other tobacco products to deter youth initiation and reduce overall consumption.

2. Securing Funding for Alaska's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program

For over two decades, Alaska's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program has been a proven success in helping thousands of Alaskans quit tobacco and nicotine use, protecting the public from the dangers of secondhand smoke, and educating youth and communities on the risks of tobacco addiction.

Additionally, aligning Alaska's tobacco sales law with the federal minimum age of 21 is a necessary step to strengthen enforcement and further limit youth access to these harmful products. By ensuring consistency with federal law, we can enhance our state's compliance efforts and reduce underage tobacco sales.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to public health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carrie Nyssen".

Carrie Nyssen  
Senior Director of Advocacy