Amend (Statute) to Include Vaping in Wisconsin’s Indoor Air Laws

Request for Legislators: Please add vaping and e-cigarette use to the state’s indoor air laws to help discourage use, improve public health, and help stem the youth vaping crisis by amending state statutes under s. 101.123 as specified by AB 491 SB 442.

An Emerging Crisis

Current state law prohibits smoking in specified indoor areas such as restaurants, schools, bars, theatres, or health care facilities. The popularity and rising use of vaping products constitutes an emerging public health crisis with increased incidents of death and hospitalizations that have been directly linked to vaping. 1 Especially concerning is the rapid growth of vaping amongst high school and middle school-aged students. Publicly available data show that rates of e-cigarette use amongst this population has reversed a decades-long trend of declining smoking rates (Figure 1). To help combat the rising incidence of vaping-related deaths and illness the Food and Drug Administration issued new regulations banning the sale of flavored e-cigarette cartridges. 2

State of Vaping and E-Cigarettes in Wisconsin

Currently, Wisconsin laws do not include vaping or e-cigarette use in its indoor air laws (Figure 2). Adding vaping to the state’s indoor air laws would help discourage use and improve public health benefits. Other states have already added vaping to their indoor air laws. To help stem the vaping crisis it is imperative to act and add vaping and e-cigarettes to Wisconsin’s indoor air laws.

Key Discussion Points
• The emergence of vaping has reversed a decades long decline in teen tobacco use.
• Vaping has been linked to incidence of hospitalization, illness, and death.
• The state already bans smoking in most indoor areas – doing so discourages use.

1 https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease.html#latest-outbreak-information
4 https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6514a1.htm