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Written Testimony - Proponent  
House Bill 2269  
Senate Committee on Federal & State Affairs  
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Chairman Thompson, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2269.

Over the past few years, we have learned that vaping and the use of electronic cigarettes has resulted in serious illness and even death. Rather than assisting smokers to gradually wean themselves off cigarettes, it would appear to also be resulting in new addictions to nicotine with a new set of serious negative health consequences.

Schools have been fighting the rise in vaping among students for several years now. It is much harder to control something that does not leave the odor and smoke traces of traditional tobacco products. We need all the help we can get in the battle to keep our students away from these harmful products.

Kansas NEA has previously adopted the following policy position pertaining to tobacco and vaping products:

*KNEA supports all efforts to block access by Kansas children to substances that create serious negative health consequences or lead to addiction including tobacco and vaping products. We support policies that keep schools free of such products and any effort to raise the age for sale, purchase, possession or use of tobacco and vaping products. This does not include FDA-approved medications such as nicotine gum when used, if at all, in accordance with label directions.*

We believe that passage of HB 2269 will help us to combat both smoking and vaping. We need to do a better job of keeping these harmful products out of the hands of young people and hopefully maintain a non-smoking habit.

We urge the committee to pass HB 2269.