



**Kansas Hospital**  
ASSOCIATION

TO: House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Chad Austin  
Senior Vice President, Government Relations

DATE: January 23, 2020

RE: House Bill 2450 – Kansas Clean Indoor Air Act

The Kansas Hospital Association appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in support of House Bill 2450. This legislation would add a provision to existing law to include the use of electronic cigarettes and prohibit their use in certain places. The revised definition of smoking states, “smoking means possession of a lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe or burning tobacco in any form or device designed for the use of tobacco, *or use of an electronic cigarette.*”

The use of these e-cigarettes, commonly referred to as vaping, has been shown to cause significant health problems, especially among youth who have adopted this new method of enjoying the stimulant nicotine. Teens often mistakenly believe that vaping is less harmful than smoking. E-cigarettes are less costly than traditional cigarettes and vaping cartridges often contain enticing flavorings which also appeal to those who vape.

The use of e-cigarettes comes at a significant cost. In 2015, the U.S. surgeon general reported that e-cigarette use among high school students had increased by 900%, and 40% of young e-cigarette users had never smoked regular tobacco. As of January 16, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported a total of 2,668 cases of lung injury and 60 deaths linked to vaping. The majority of reported cases are among people under the age of 34.

The Kansas Hospital Association strongly supports tobacco-free, nicotine-free environments. For these reasons, we encourage passage of House Bill 2450 with its goal of limiting the use of these harmful products.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.