

**House Federal and State Affairs  
Neutral Testimony on HB 2563  
February 13, 2020**

Chairman Barker and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you neutral testimony of HB 2563. Oral Health Kansas is the state-wide advocacy organization dedicated to promoting the importance of lifelong dental health by shaping policy and educating the public, so Kansans know that all mouths matter. We stand in support of many components of HB 2563 including the removal of a youth penalty, an increase in licensure fee, and a flavor ban for electronic cigarettes. However, Oral Health Kansas does oppose the menthol exemption included in the flavor ban. With an amendment to include menthol in the flavor ban, Oral Health Kansas would stand in full support of HB 2563.

A study conducted by the American Dental Association in 2018 found the flavored aerosols used in electronic cigarettes to have similar chemical properties to sugary candies and acidic drinks. The same study found a 27% decrease in enamel hardness when various flavorings were added to e-liquid compared to unflavored controls.<sup>1</sup> A different study, published in Head & Face Medicine in 2014, found that electronic cigarette flavorings increase cell damage and cell death, with menthol flavoring causing the most damage.<sup>2</sup> The decrease in enamel hardness and increase in cell damage and death from electronic cigarette flavorings ultimately leads to more cavities, tooth decay, and gum disease.

Electronic cigarette flavorings not only attract youth but can also negatively impact their oral health, with menthol causing the most harm. For these reasons, Oral Health Kansas stands in a neutral position of HB 2563, and asks the Committee to consider an amendment to include menthol flavoring in the flavor ban. Thank you for your time.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6128655/>

<sup>2</sup><https://head-face-med.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1746-160X-10-39>