

**Testimony
House Bill 1078
House Judiciary Committee
February 2, 2015; 9:30 a.m.
North Dakota Department of Health**

Good morning, Chairman Koppelman and members of the House Judiciary Committee. My name is Krista (Headland) Fremming, and I am the Director of the Chronic Disease Division at the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH). I am here today to testify in support of House Bill 1078.

HB 1078 concerns the sale and use of nicotine devices by minors. Section 1 of the bill adds “nicotine devices” to the list of those that cannot be sold to minors and defines “nicotine device.” Section 2 of the bill prohibits their sale through vending machines. Sections 3 and 4 of the bill add “nicotine devices” to tobacco product use by truants or sales other than those made in person.

The NDDoH is concerned about the rising use of e-cigarettes, and particularly about the increase in use of these devices in children and teens. From 2011 to 2013, the rate of North Dakota high school students who reported trying electronic smoking devices nearly tripled, increasing from 4.5 percent to 13.4 percent. High school students who have tried electronic smoking devices are twice as likely to try conventional cigarettes.

Elimination of vending machine sales is important because youth would not be exposed to the trendy and appealing marketing that is used by tobacco companies to promote these devices. Numerous studies show the causal relationship between tobacco marketing and youth smoking initiation. The last section of the bill would prevent minors from ordering these devices online and gaining access in that manner.

The NDDoH supports prohibiting the sale of e-cigarettes, or “nicotine devices,” to minors.

This concludes my testimony. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.