• Good Afternoon, Senator Pan and Committee members. I am Dan Peddycord, Director of Public Health for Contra Costa Health Services and I am joined today by Dr. Chris Farnitano, our County Health Officer.

• We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony to the Committee and offer some insights as to how we are using local policy to address the epidemic of youth use of tobacco related products.

• In 2016, Contra Costa witnessed the start of an alarming increase in the prevalence of youth vaping.

• Slide #2 illustrates this in three of our local high schools. You will note that Martinez High school jumped from 8% of 11th graders who said they had vaped in the past 30 days to 30% in the two years between surveys. Additionally, In the 2017-18 survey Acalanes High School, which is in Lafayette was noted as having the highest rate of youth vaping in the entire Bay Area – at 25%, at that time.

• In response to this urgent Public Health concern, Contra Costa adopted an ordinance to ban the sale of flavored tobacco products in proximity to youth sensitive areas - included flavored e-cigarettes in July of 2017.

• Subsequently, with the emergence of acute vaping associated illness and reflecting on the data noted above the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors extended their ban on the sale of flavored tobacco products to the entire unincorporated county in the fall of 2019. AND additionally banned the sale of ALL vaping products in the unincorporated County.

• This specific action was taken in recognition that none of these products had yet met the required FDA pre-market review and authorization process, that went into effect in August of 2016.
As you are aware on September 25, 2019, before the US House Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, Dr. Norman Sharpless, Interim Director of the US Food and Drug Administration stated...

“No Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS) product in the United States is on the market legally. "All e-cigarettes currently on the market are illegal because they haven’t been assessed by the FDA.”

The immediate goal of the Contra Costa ordinance was to create conditions in the retail environment that are protective to youth.

If the exposure to fine particulate matter and tobacco constituents is not enough, these products, as you are aware, contain substantial amounts of nicotine, one of the most addictive substances ever added to a consumer product and stand to dramatically reverse a decades long trend of tobacco prevention in youth.

It is our hope that these actions will help curb the surge in youth use, which in turn will yield long term health improvement and prevent countless numbers of cases of respiratory illness, cancer and death.

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