February 27, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-222 United States Capitol
Washington, DC  20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 United States Capitol
Washington, DC  20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of our 163,000 dentist members, we would like to thank you for placing H.R. 2339, the Protecting American Lungs and Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2020, on the calendar for a vote by the full House of Representatives. Among other things, this bill would:

- Require the FDA to finalize a regulation governing products it deems to be covered by the Tobacco Control Act, including vaping products.
- Ban the sale of flavored vaping products and characterizing flavors in all tobacco products, including menthol.
- Impose a new tax on the nicotine used in vaping products.
- Ban e-cigarette ads targeting youth and extend the federal tobacco advertising and sales requirements to other types of nicotine products, including vaping products.
- Require FDA to finalize regulations governing graphic health warnings for cigarette packages (including an oral cancer image).
- Prohibit remote cigarette sales.
- Require the FDA to finalize a regulation governing “alternative” nicotine products.

Tobacco use is causally associated with higher rates of tooth decay, receding gums, periodontal disease, mucosal lesions, bone damage, tooth loss, jaw bone loss and more.\(^1\) About 9 out of 10 people who are diagnosed with oral cavity and oropharyngeal cancers use (or used) tobacco products.\(^2\) Even more alarming, about 40 percent will survive no more than five years.\(^3\)

We are alarmed by recent efforts to characterize a new generation of nicotine products as being less harmful than cigarettes, particularly electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) (also called vapes, vaporizers, vape pens, hookah pens, e-cigarettes and e-pipes). While the oral health effects of vaping are not fully studied, there is some evidence that vaping is associated with first-time and continuing tobacco use.\(^4\)

The ADA supports regulating deemed tobacco products, including vaping devices and liquids, in the same way that FDA regulates cigarettes, smokeless tobacco and other tobacco products. H.R. 2339 provides an avenue for doing that.

Again, thank you for bringing this legislation to the floor for a vote by the full House. We are pleased to offer our enthusiastic support.
If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Natalie Hales at 202-898-2404 or halesn@ada.org. Information is also available at ADA.org/tobacco.

Sincerely,

/s/                    /s/
Chad P. Gehani, D.D.S.  Kathleen T. O’Loughlin, D.M.D., M.P.H.
President              Executive Director

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