

April 1, 2024

The Honorable J.D. Vance
U.S. Senator for Ohio

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
U.S. Senator for Ohio

Dear Senators:

My name is Tabitha Thom and I am a nursing student at Firelands Regional Medical Center School of Nursing in Sandusky, Ohio. Our school was established in 1905, has a prestigious reputation in the nursing education community, and will graduate a progressing thinking class come May 3, 2024.

We have been provided with hands-on clinical education as nursing students, and I have had the ability to encounter several different healthcare concerns. I am writing to you to seek support for increased education regarding e-cigarettes and other types of electronic nicotine delivery systems. More specifically, vaping which is a billion-dollar industry that many have fallen victim to because of unknown harmful ingested chemicals. Healthcare costs continue to rise due to serious lung injury and respiratory illness that is not related to infection. Emerging data suggests chronic cough, lung disease, asthma, and cardiovascular disease are long-term effects of these nicotine delivery systems.

I can encourage patients to quit and offer counseling, but I would ask you to give thought to using your voice in support of cessation in e-cigarettes. Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me to discuss this concern further. My contact information is 419-656-5699 (cellular) or tthom0815@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Tabitha L. Thom