Testimony before the Commerce Committee
New Hampshire Senate
Regarding Prohibiting the Sale of Flavored Tobacco and Vapor Products
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Chairman French and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for your time today to discuss the issue of banning remote sales of tobacco and vapor products. My name is Lindsey Stroud and I am a Policy Analyst with the Taxpayers Protection Alliance (TPA). TPA is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to educating the public through the research, analysis and dissemination of information on the government's effects on the economy.

As lawmakers attempt to address youth use of age- restricted products, including electronic cigarettes and vapor products, some policymakers are seeking to ban sales of flavored tobacco and vapor products. Although addressing youth use is laudable, policymakers should refrain from policies that would restrict adult access to tobacco harm reduction products, as well as implementing policies that further subvert adult choices, such as is the case with the proposal to ban flavors in tobacco and vapor products.

E-Cigarettes and Tobacco Harm Reduction

The evidence of harm associated with combustible cigarettes has been understood since the 1964 U.S. Surgeon General's Report that determined that smoking causes cancer. Research overwhelmingly shows the smoke created by the burning of tobacco, rather than the nicotine, produces the harmful chemicals found in combustible cigarettes.[1] There are an estimated 600 ingredients in each tobacco cigarette, and "when burned, [they] create more than 7,000 chemicals."[2] As a result of these chemicals, cigarette smoking is directly linked to cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, numerous types of cancer, and increases in other health risks among the smoking population.[3]

For decades, policymakers and public health officials looking to reduce smoking rates have relied on strategies such as emphasizing the possibility of death related to tobacco use and implementing tobacco-related restrictions and taxes to motivate smokers to quit using cigarettes. However, there are much more effective ways to reduce tobacco use than relying on government mandates and "quit or die" approaches.

During the past 30 years, the tobacco harm reduction (THR) approach has successfully helped millions of smokers transition to less-harmful alternatives. THRs include effective nicotine delivery systems, such as smokeless tobacco, snus, electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), and

vaping. E-cigarettes and vaping devices have emerged as especially powerful THR tools, helping nearly three million U.S. adults quit smoking from 2007 to 2015.

In fact, an estimated 10.8 million American adults were using electronic cigarettes and vapor products in 2016.[4] Of the 10.8 million, only 15 percent, or 1.6 million adults, were never-smokers, indicating that e-cigarettes are overwhelmingly used by current and/or former smokers.

E-Cigarettes and Vapor Products 101

E-cigarettes were first introduced in the United States in 2007 by a company called Ruyan.[5] Soon after their introduction, Ruyan and other brands began to offer the first generation of e-cigarettes, called "cigalikes." These devices provide users with an experience that simulates smoking traditional tobacco cigarettes. Cig-alikes are typically composed of three parts: a cartridge that contains an e-liquid, with or without nicotine; an atomizer to heat the e-liquid to vapor; and a battery.

In later years, manufacturers added second-generation tank systems to e-cigarette products, followed by larger third-generation personal vaporizers, which vape users commonly call "mods."[6] These devices can either be closed or open systems.

Closed systems, often referred to as "pod systems," contain a disposable cartridge that is discarded after consumption. Open systems contain a tank that users can refill with e-liquid. Both closed and open systems utilize the same three primary parts included in cigalikes—a liquid, an atomizer with a heating element, and a battery— as well as other electronic parts. Unlike cig-alikes, "mods" allow users to manage flavorings and the amount of vapor produced by controlling the temperature that heats the e-liquid.

Mods also permit consumers to control nicotine levels. Current nicotine levels in e-liquids range from zero to greater than 50 milligrams per milliliter (mL).[7] Many users have reported reducing their nicotine concentration levels after using vaping devices for a prolonged period, indicating nicotine is not the only reason people choose to vape.

Health Effects of Electronic Cigarettes and Vapor Products

Despite recent media reports, e-cigarettes are significantly less harmful than combustible cigarettes. Public health statements on the harms of e-cigarettes include:

> **Public Health England:** In 2015, Public Health England, a leading health agency in the United Kingdom and similar to the FDA found "that using [e-cigarettes are] around 95% safer than smoking," and that their use "could help reducing smoking related disease, death and health inequalities."[8] In 2018, the agency reiterated their findings, finding vaping to be "at least 95% less harmful than smoking."[9]
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> **The Royal College of Physicians:** In 2016, the Royal College of Physicians found the use of e-cigarettes and vaping devices "unlikely to exceed 5% of the risk of harm from

smoking tobacco."[10] The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) is another United Kingdom-based public health organization, and the same public group the United States relied on for its 1964 Surgeon General's report on smoking and health.

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine: In January 2018, the academy noted "using current generation e-cigarettes is less harmful than smoking."[11]

A 2017 study in *BMJ*'s peer-reviewed journal *Tobacco Control* examined health outcomes using "a strategy of switching cigarette smokers to e-cigarette use … in the USA to accelerate tobacco control progress."[12] The authors concluded that replacing e-cigarettes "for tobacco cigarettes would result in an estimated 6.6 million fewer deaths and more than 86 million fewer life-years lost."

An October 2020 review in the *Cochrane Library Database of Systematic Reviews* analyzed 50 completed studies which had been published up until January 2020 and represented more than 12,400 participants.

The authors found that there was "moderate-certainty evidence, limited by imprecision, that quit rates were higher in people randomized to nicotine [e-cigarettes] than in those randomized to nicotine replacement therapy." The authors found that e-cigarette use translated "to an additional four successful quitters per 100." The authors also found higher quit rates in participants that had used e-cigarettes containing nicotine, compared to the participants that had not used nicotine.

Notably, the authors found that for "every 100 people using nicotine e-cigarettes to stop smoking, 10 might successfully stop, compared with only six of 100 people using nicotine replacement therapy or nicotine-free e-cigarettes."

Tobacco and Vapor Product Use Among New Hampshire Youth

Often, lawmakers justify banning flavors in tobacco and vapor products due to youth use of such products. But, according to the 2019 New Hampshire Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), many high school students in the Granite State are not overwhelmingly regularly using vapor devices and combustible cigarette use is at an all-time low.

According to the 2019 New Hampshire YRBS, 49.8 percent of high school students reported ever-using an electronic vapor product. When inquired about past 30-day use, 66.2 percent of New Hampshire high school students reported using an electronic cigarette 0 days in the 30 days prior to the survey. Further, 13 percent reported using an e-cigarette between one to five days and only 9.5 percent of high school students reported using vapor products on all 30 days, which was overwhelmingly attributed to 11th and 12th grade students.

Further, combustible cigarette use is at an all-time low. In 2019, 5.5 percent of New Hampshire high school students reported current cigarette use – defined as using a cigarette on at least one occasion in the 30 days prior. This is a 40.9 percent decrease from 2015, when 9.3 percent of

New Hampshire high school students reported using combustible cigarettes and an 84.7 percent decrease from 1995, when 36 percent of high school students reported using a cigarette in the past month.

Flavors and Youth E-Cigarette Use

Despite media alarmism, many American high school students are not overwhelmingly using vapor products due to flavors. Indeed, in analyses of state youth tobacco use surveys, other factors including social sources are most often cited among youth for reasons to use e-cigarettes and vapor products.

For example, in 2017, of Connecticut high school students that had ever used an e-cigarette, 23.9 percent reported "flavors" as a reason for use. Conversely, 41.6 percent reported using vapor products because a "friend or family member used them," and 33 percent cited "some other reason."[13] In 2019, among all Connecticut high school students, 5.2 percent reported using e-cigarettes because of "flavors," 18.2 percent cited "other," and 12.9 percent reported using e-cigarettes because of friends and/or family.[14]

Similarly, in 2017, among Hawaiian high school students that had ever used e-cigarettes, 26.4 percent cited flavors as a reason for e-cigarette use, compared to 38.9 percent that reported "other."[15]

According to results from the 2018 YRBS, Maryland high school students reported using flavored vapor products, but flavors weren't overwhelmingly cited by e-cigarette users as a reason for use.[16] When asked about the "main reason" Maryland high school users used flavors only 3.2 percent responded "flavors." Conversely, 13 percent reported because "friend/family used them," 11.7 percent reported "other," and 3.8 percent reported using e-cigarettes because they were less harmful than other tobacco products.

In 2019, among all Montana high school students, only 7 percent reported using vapor products because of flavors, compared to 13.5 percent that reported using e-cigarettes because of "friend or family member used them."[17] Further, 25.9 percent of Montana high school students reported using vapor products for "some other reason."

In 2019, among all students, only 4.5 percent of Rhode Island high school students claimed to have used e-cigarettes because they were available in flavors, while 12.5 cited the influence of a friend and/or family member who used them and 15.9 percent reported using e-cigarettes "for some other reason."[18]

In 2017, among current e-cigarette users, only 17 percent of Vermont high school students reported flavors as a reason to use e-cigarettes. Comparatively, 35 percent cited friends and/or family members and 33 percent cited "other."[19]

In 2019, among high school students that were current e-cigarette users, only 10 percent of Vermont youth that used e-cigarettes cited flavors as a primary reason for using e-cigarettes, while 17 percent of Vermont high school students reported using e-cigarettes because their family and/or friends used them.[20]

Lastly, in 2017, among all Virginia high school students, only 6.2 percent reported using e-cigarettes because of flavors, while 11.3 percent used them because a friend and/or family member used them.[21] In 2019, among all Virginia high school students, only 3.9 percent reported using e-cigarettes because of flavors, 12.1 used for some other reason, and 9.6 used them because of friends and/or family members.[22]

Effects of Flavor Bans

Flavor bans have had little effect on reducing youth e-cigarette use and may lead to increased combustible cigarette rates, as evidenced in San Francisco, California.[23]

In April 2018, a ban on the sale of flavored e-cigarettes and vapor products went into effect in San Francisco and in January, 2020, the city implemented a full ban on any electronic vapor product. Unfortunately, these measures have failed to lower youth tobacco and vapor product use.

Data from an analysis of the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey show that 16 percent of San Francisco high school students had used a vapor product on at least one occasion in 2019 – a 125 percent increase from 2017 when 7.1 percent of San Francisco high school students reported using an e-cigarette.[24] Daily use more than doubled, from 0.7 percent of high school students in 2017, to 1.9 percent of San Francisco high school students reporting using an e-cigarette or vapor product every day in 2019.

Worse, despite nearly a decade of significant declines, youth use of combustible cigarettes seems to be on the rise in Frisco. In 2009, 35.6 percent of San Francisco high school students reported ever trying combustible cigarettes. This figure continued to decline to 16.7 percent in 2017. In 2019, the declining trend reversed and 18.6 percent of high school students reported ever trying a combustible cigarette. Similarly, current cigarette use increased from 4.7 percent of San Francisco high school students in 2017 to 6.5 percent in 2019.

An April 2020 study in *Addictive Behavior Reports* examined the impact of San Francisco's flavor ban on young adults by surveying a sample of San Francisco residents aged 18 to 34 years.[25] Although the ban did have an effect in decreasing vaping rates, the authors noted "a significant increase in cigarette smoking" among participants aged 18 to 24 years old.

Other municipal flavor bans have also had no effect on youth e-cigarette use.[26] For example, Santa Clara County, California, banned flavored tobacco products to age-restricted stores in 2014. Despite this, youth e-cigarette use *increased*. In the 2015-16 California Youth Tobacco

Survey (CYTS), 7.5 percent of Santa Clara high school students reported current use of e-cigarettes. In the 2017-18 CYTS, this *increased* to 10.7 percent.

Menthol Bans Have Little Effect on Smoking Rates, Lead to Black Markets, Lost Revenue and Will Create Racial Tension

Beyond e-cigarettes, policymakers' fears about the role of menthol and flavorings in cigarettes and cigars are overblown and banning these products will likely lead to black markets.

Data from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) finds nearly a third of all American adult smokers smoke menthol cigarettes. In a 2015 NHIS survey, "of the 36.5 million American adult smokers, about 10.7 million reported that they smoked menthol cigarettes," and white menthol smokers "far outnumbered" the black and African American menthol smokers.[27]

Although lawmakers believe banning menthol cigarettes will deter persons from smoking those, such a ban will likely lead to black markets. A 2012 study featured in the journal *Addiction* found a quarter of menthol smokers surveyed indicated they would find a way to purchase, even illegally, menthol cigarettes should a menthol ban go into place.[28] Further, there is little evidence that smokers would actually quit under a menthol ban. A 2015 study in *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* found only 28 percent of menthol smokers would give up cigarettes if menthol cigarettes were banned.[29]

Moreover, there is no evidence to suggest that menthol cigarettes lead to youth tobacco use. Analysts at the Reason Foundation examined youth tobacco rates and menthol cigarette sales.[30] The authors of the 2020 report found that states "with more menthol cigarette consumption relative to all cigarettes have *lower* rates of child smoking." Indeed, the only "predictive relationship" is between child and adult smoking rates, finding that "states with higher rates of adult use cause higher rates of youth use."

Lawmakers should take note that menthol sales bans will strain minority communities. Although white Americans smoke more menthol cigarettes than black or African Americans, "black smokers [are] 10-11 times more likely to smoke" menthol cigarettes than white smokers.[31]

Given African Americans' preference for menthol cigarettes, a ban on menthol cigarettes would force police to further scrutinize African Americans and likely lead to unintended consequences.

A 2015 analysis from the National Research Council examined characteristics in the illicit tobacco market.[32] The researchers found that although lower income persons were less likely to travel to purchase lower-taxed cigarettes, "having a higher share of non-white households was associated with a lower probability of finding a local tax stamp" and "neighborhoods with higher proportions of minorities are more likely to have formal or informal networks that allow circumvention of the cigarette taxes."

Lawmakers in New Hampshire should reexamine the case of Eric Garner, a man killed in 2014 while being arrested for selling single cigarettes in the city. In a 2019 letter to the New York City council, Garner's mother, as well as Trayvon Martin's mother, implored officials to "pay very close attention to the unintended consequences of a ban on menthol cigarettes and what it would mean for communities of color."[33] Both mothers noted that a menthol ban would "create a whole new market for loosies and re-introduce another version of stop and frisk in black, financially challenged communities."

Neighboring State Flavor Bans Have Brought Economic Benefits to New Hampshire

With certainty, a ban on flavored tobacco and vapor products would lead to a loss of revenue without decreasing smoking rates as menthol smokers in New Hampshire are likely to travel to neighboring states to purchase menthol products. This has been demonstrated in Massachusetts, which banned the sale of flavored tobacco and vapor products, including menthol cigarettes and took effect June 1, 2020.

An analysis by the Tax Foundation found that "Massachusetts' flavor ban has not limited use, just changed where Bay Staters purchase cigarettes."[34] The analysis noted that sales of cigarette tax stamps in the Northeast "have stayed remarkably stable," and that "Massachusetts sales plummeted, but only because those sales went elsewhere."

The Tax Foundation's analysis found that sales of cigarettes "skyrocketed" in New Hampshire and Rhode Island – growing 55.8 percent and 56 percent, respectively, between June 2019 and June 2020.

Indeed, in FY 2019, New Hampshire collected $198.8 million in tobacco tax revenue, this increased by 6.9 percent to $212.5 million at the end of FY2020.[35] For the first 6 months of FY2021, the Granite State has collected $130.6 million in tobacco tax revenue – nearly 66 percent of what the state collected in FY2019.

Tobacco Economics 101: New Hampshire

In 2019, 17 percent of adults in New Hampshire smoked tobacco cigarettes, amounting to 187,694 smokers in 2019.[36] When figuring a pack-per-day, over 1.3 billion cigarettes were smoked in 2019 by Granite Staters, or about 3.8 million per day.[37]

In 2019, New Hampshire imposed a $1.78 excise tax on a pack of cigarettes.[38] In 2019, New Hampshire collected $121.9 million in cigarette excise taxes, when figuring for a pack-a-day habit. This amounts to $649.70 per smoker per year. According to the New Hampshire Department of Revenue, in 2019, the Granite State collected $197.2 million in tobacco excise tax revenue.

New Hampshire spent $925,000 on tobacco control programs in 2019, or $5.07 per smoker per year. This is less than 1 percent of what the state received in excise taxes in 2019 from New

Hampshire adult smokers, based off a pack-a-day habit, and even less than what the state received in total tobacco tax collections in 2019. When figuring amount spent on youth in the state, New Hampshire spent $3.62 per year for each resident under 18 years of age.

Vapor Economics 101: New Hampshire

Electronic cigarettes and vapor products are not only a harm reduction tool for hundreds of thousands of smokers in the Constitution State, they're also an economic boon.

In 2018, according to the Vapor Technology Association, the industry created 360 direct vaping-related jobs, including manufacturing, retail, and wholesale jobs in New Hampshire, which generated $11 million in wages alone.[39] Moreover, the industry has created hundreds of secondary jobs in the Granite State, bringing the total economic impact in 2018 to $77,357,800. In the same year, New Hampshire received more than $3 million in state taxes attributable to the vaping industry. These figures do not include sales in convenience stores, which sell vapor products including disposables and prefilled cartridges. In 2016, sales of these products in New Hampshire eclipsed $6.1 million.[40]

Switching from combustible cigarettes to electronic cigarettes and vapor products will also reduce smoking-related health issues and save persons and states money. WalletHub estimated the "true cost of smoking" including "…cost of a cigarette pack per day, health care expenditures, income losses and other costs."[41] WalletHub estimated the true cost for smoker in New Hampshire to be $46,472 per-smoker per-year.

In 1995, 21.5 percent of New Hampshire adults smoked combustible cigarettes, amounting to approximately 184,752 adults.[42] Among all adults, 18.8 percent (161,551 adults) reported smoking every day in 1995. In 2019, 15.9 percent of adults in the Granite State were current smokers, amounting to 175,609 smokers. Further, 11.9 percent of New Hampshire adults (131,431 adults) were daily smokers in 2019.

Among New Hampshire adults, current smoking decreased by 26 percent between 1995 and 2019. Moreover, there are there are an estimated 9,143 fewer smokers in 2019, compared to 1995, and 30,120 fewer daily smokers. Using the WalletHub figures, this reduction represents an estimated $424.9 million in yearly savings.

Other reports have also noted that substitution of e-cigarettes for combustible cigarettes could save the state in healthcare costs.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), it is now well known that Medicaid recipients smoke at rates of twice the average of privately insured persons. In 2013, "smoking-related diseases cost Medicaid programs an average of $833 million per state."[43]

A 2015 policy analysis by State Budget Solutions examined electronic cigarettes' effect on Medicaid spending. The author estimated Medicaid savings could have amounted to $48 billion

in 2012 if e-cigarettes had been adopted in place of combustible tobacco cigarettes by all Medicaid recipients who currently consume these products.[44]

A 2017 study by the R Street Institute examined the financial impact to Medicaid costs that would occur should a large number of current Medicaid recipients switch from combustible cigarettes to e-cigarettes or vaping devices. The author used a sample size of "1% of smokers [within] demographic groups permanently" switching. In this analysis, the author estimates Medicaid savings "will be approximately $2.8 billion per 1 percent of enrollees," over the next 25 years.[45]

Wasted Tobacco Dollars

Deeply problematic with the proposed legislation is the fact that New Hampshire spends very little on tobacco control, including education and prevention.

Between 2000 and 2020, New Hampshire received an estimated $920.4 million in payments attributed to the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA).[46] During the same time period, the Constitution State allocated only $14.5 million toward tobacco control programs – or about 1.3 percent of what the state received in MSA payments during the period.[47] These figures do not include the state's excise tax on cigarettes – which, between 2011 and 20202, New Hampshire collected over $2.163 billion in tobacco excises taxes. Indeed, New Hampshire's tobacco control spending over 20 years is only 5 percent of what the state received in tobacco taxes and settlement payments in the single year of 2020.

Conclusion & Policy Recommendations:

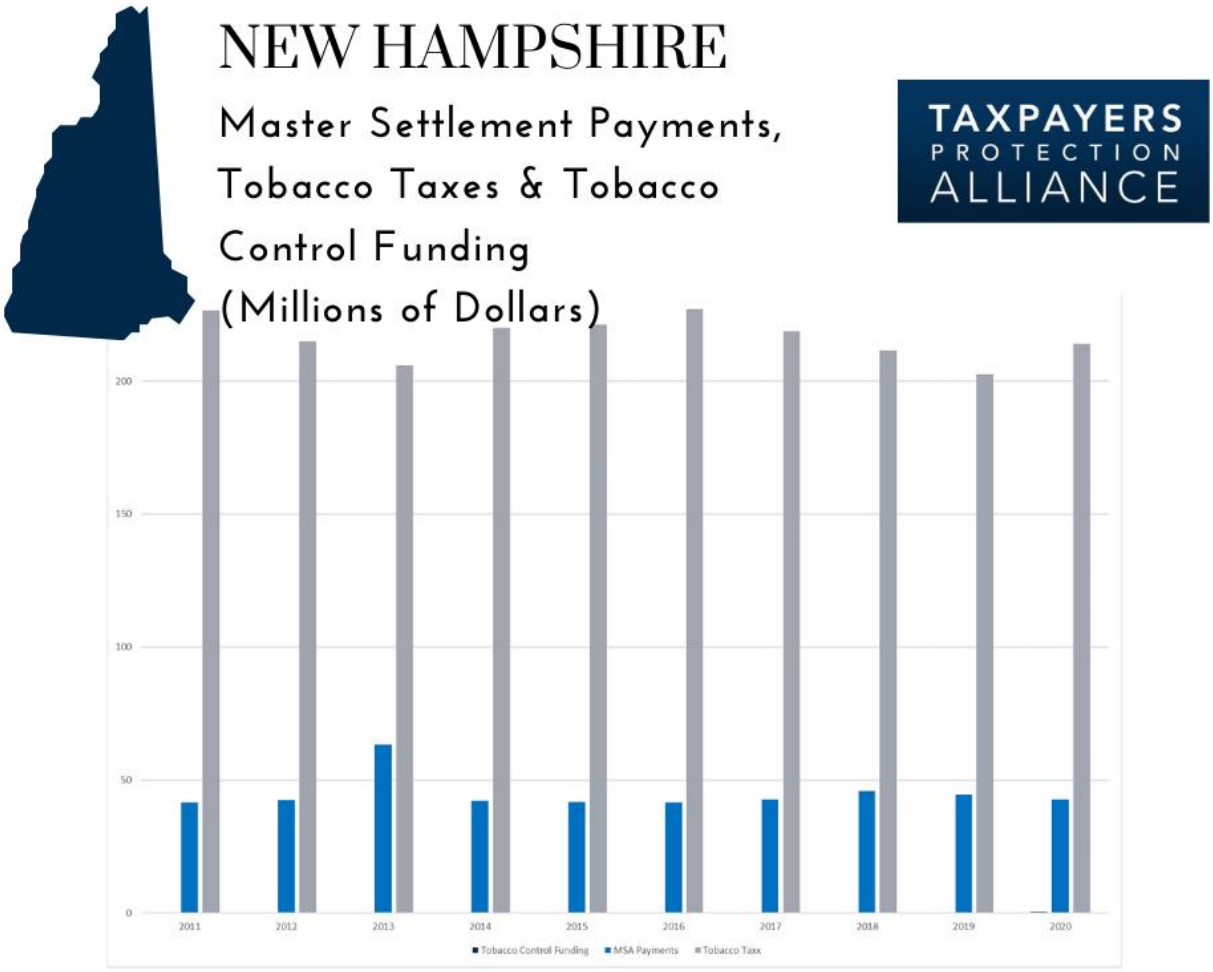
It is disingenuous that lawmakers would purport to protect public health yet restrict access to safer products. Rather than restricting access to tobacco harm reduction products and flavored tobacco products, lawmakers should encourage the use of e-cigarettes and work towards earmarking adequate funding for smoking education and prevention programs.

- To address youth use of age-restricted products, as well as adult use of deadly combustible cigarettes, New Hampshire must allocate additional funding from revenue generated from existing excise taxes and settlement payments. New Hampshire woefully underfunds such programs and in 20 years has only allocated 5 percent tobacco taxes and settlement payments towards tobacco control programs – including youth prevention.
- New Hampshire's education and health departments must work with tobacco and vapor product retailers to ensure there are no sales of age-restricted products to minors. Any solution to address such strategies must include all actors – not only proponents of draconian prohibitionist policies.
- Lawmakers' must face the reality of a larger illicit market in the wake of a ban on flavored tobacco and vapor products – prohibition does not automatically translate into reduced use, just different markets.

- New Hampshire is in a unique position, given existing flavor bans in neighboring states. Banning the sale of flavored tobacco and vapor products would negate those economic gains.

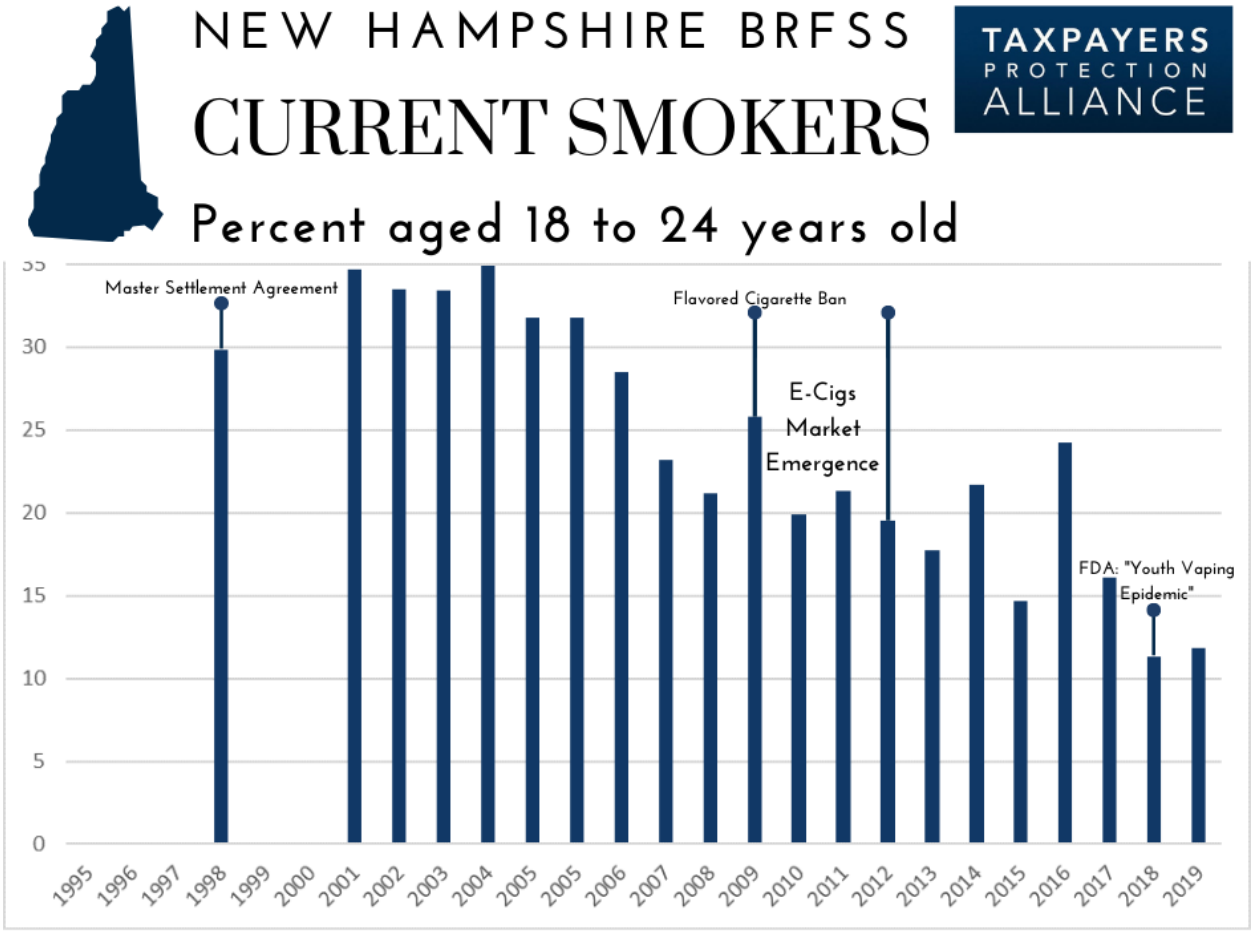
Supplemental Graphs

1.1 New Hampshire Tobacco Control Funding Compared to Taxes and Settlement Payments



Sources: Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, Indiana Department of Revenue
For more information, contact Lindsey Stroud at lindsey@protectingtaxpayers.org

1.2 New Hampshire Smoking Rates, 18 – 24-year-old



Sources: Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey
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CIGARETTE SMOKING 101: NEW HAMPSHIRE

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KEY POINTS

- **In 2019,21.5 percent of New Hampshire adults smoked combustible cigarettes, this is a 26 percent decrease from 1995.**
- **Maryland has received $951.2 million in MSA payments from tobacco companies between 1998 and 2020.**
- **E-cigarettes appear more effective than MSA payments in reducing smoking rates among younger adults in New Hampshire.**
- **10 years after the MSA, smoking rates *decreased* among 18- to 24-year-olds by 28.9 percent. 10 years after e-cigarettes market emergence, smoking rates among 18 to 24 years old *decreased* by 54.3 percent.**

1995 ADULT SMOKING 2019

In 1995, 21.5 percent of New Hampshire adults smoked combustible cigarettes, amounting to over 184,752 adult smokers. Among all adults, 18.8 percent (161,551 adults) reported smoking every day in 1995.

In 2019, 15.9 percent of adults in the Granite State were current smokers, amounting to 175,609 adult smokers. Further, 11.9 percent of New Hampshire adults (131,431 adults) were daily smokers in 2019.

Among New Hampshire adults, **current smoking decreased by 26 percent** between 1995 and 2019. Moreover, there are there are an estimated **9,143 fewer smokers in 2019**, compared to 1995, and **30,120 fewer daily smokers.**

MASTER SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

In the mid-1990s, New Hampshire sued tobacco companies to reimburse Medicaid for the costs of treating smoking-related health issues and in 1998, with 45 other states, reached "the largest civil litigation settlement in U.S. history" – or the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA). Under the MSA, states receive annual payments – in perpetuity – from the tobacco companies, while relinquishing future claims against the participating companies.

BETWEEN 1998 AND 2020, NEW HAMPSHIRE COLLECTED $951.2 MILLION IN MSA PAYMENTS.

EFFECTS OF MSA ON SMOKING RATES

Ideally, given that states sued tobacco companies to offset the costs of smoking-related illnesses, some of the MSA payments would be directed into programs to help smokers quit – or not take up smoking – and should be reflective in adult smoking rates.

In **1998, 23.3 percent of New Hampshire adults smoked combustible cigarettes**. This figure decreased to **17.1 percent** of New Hampshire adults being current smokers in **2008** – or a ***26.6 percent decrease*** in the 10 years after Arizona began participating in the MSA. During the same time period, Maryland received over $390.9 million in MSA payments.

Regarding young adult smokers, in **1999**, among current adult smokers in New Hampshire, **29.8 percent** were between **18 to 24 years old.** In 2009, this **decreased by 37.9 percent**, to **21.2 percent** of adult smokers in New Hampshire being between 18 to 24 years old.

EFFECTS OF E-CIGARETTES ON SMOKING RATES

Electronic cigarettes and vapor products were first introduced to the U.S. in 2007 "and between 2009 and 2012, retail sales of e-cigarettes expanded to all major markets in the United States."

In **2009, 15.8 percent of adults** in New Hampshire smoked combustible cigarettes amounting to over 161,990 adult smokers. In **2019, 15.9 percent** of New Hampshire adults were current smokers – or 175,609 smokers. This represents a **0.6 percent decrease** in current smoking rates among New Hampshire adults between 2009 and 2019.

Among current smokers aged **18 to 24 years old**, smoking rates ***decreased by 54.3 percent***. Indeed, in **2009**, among current smokers in New Hampshire, **25.8 percent** were between 18 to 24 years old. In **2019**, only **11.8 percent** of current smokers were 18 to 24 years old.

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