



Joining School, Family, and Community in preventing and reducing youth substance use and preventing youth suicide

9/11/19

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of the State of Michigan

Dear Governor Whitmer,

I am writing on behalf of the Chippewa Valley Coalition for Youth and Families, a school-community coalition that joins Chippewa Valley Schools, a school district of nearly 16,000 students in Macomb County, Michigan, their parents and our community in an effort to protect our youth from substance use, including youth vaping. Our Coalition has devoted considerable time and effort in creating strategies to address the vaping of our students.

Similar to school districts across the state and nation, we have seen increasing numbers of our middle and high students enticed by flavored nicotine vaping products, most, seemingly with no idea they can become addicted. School districts across the state, including Chippewa Valley, are dealing with increased school infractions for the possession and use of flavored vaping products.

The Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth Drug Survey data we have gathered from our middle and high school students shows dramatic increases in reported vaping by students in the past 3 years. We are hearing similar results from other school districts in our county and the state. Focus groups conducted with our high school students have revealed that most that start vaping are drawn by the flavorings; have seen ads that clearly target youth in marketing vaping products; and are naïve about the potential for addiction.

In conclusion, we support your emergency ban on the sales of flavored vaping products and hope that our state legislators step forward and take a similar stand to protect our youth.

Sincerely,

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