

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kelle Bunch
2245 W Pershing Rd
Chicago, Illinois 60609 2211

Dear Superintendent Bunch,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Martin Cook
600 E Pine St
Le Roy, Illinois 61752 1860

Dear Superintendent Cook,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Scott Riddle
3202 N Wisconsin Ave
Peoria, Illinois 61603 1260

Dear Superintendent Riddle,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Donna Veile
400 Elsie Ave
Crest Hill, Illinois 60403 2573

Dear Superintendent Veile,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Roy Webb
409 N Chicago St
Elwood, Illinois 60421 9367

Dear Superintendent Webb,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Andrea Evers
1235 Oak St
Winnetka, Illinois 60093 2168

Dear Superintendent Evers,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Brad Misner
1023 College St
Henry, Illinois 61537 1074

Dear Superintendent Misner,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Brad Turner
5800 Theodore Dr
Plainfield, Illinois 60586 5269

Dear Superintendent Turner,

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Wes Olson
2317 E Lincolnway Ste A
Sterling, Illinois 61081 3059

Dear Superintendent Olson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Daniel Woestman
23231 IL Highway 1
Chrisman, Illinois 61924 7801

Dear Superintendent Woestman,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Michael Greenlee
503 Chicago Rd
Newark, Illinois 60541 9501

Dear Superintendent Greenlee,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Vicki Phillips
203B Dean Ave
Sparta, Illinois 62286 2301

Dear Superintendent Phillips,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Bruce Bauer
PO Box 140
Alexander, Illinois 62601 0140

Dear Superintendent Bauer,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent James Hermes
2650 Thatcher Ave
River Grove, Illinois 60171 1650

Dear Superintendent Hermes,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Michael Patterson
4601 Sauk Trl
Richton Park, Illinois 60471 1470

Dear Superintendent Patterson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Chris Dougherty
2 Friendship Plz
Addison, Illinois 60101 2787

Dear Superintendent Dougherty,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Ricardo Espinoza
780 Shoreline Dr
Aurora, Illinois 60504 6192

Dear Superintendent Espinoza,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jennifer Hamilton
600 Miller St
Carthage, Illinois 62321 1129

Dear Superintendent Hamilton,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jennifer Hamilton
340 S 11th St
Warsaw, Illinois 62379 1431

Dear Superintendent Hamilton,

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kirk Haring
270 N 10th St
Hamilton, Illinois 62341 1500

Dear Superintendent Haring,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Eric Lawson
26051 W Nippersink Rd
Ingleside, Illinois 60041 8785

Dear Superintendent Lawson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jay McCracken
1520 N Bloomington St
Streator, Illinois 61364 1312

Dear Superintendent McCracken,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Tim Smith
606 W North St
Auburn, Illinois 62615 1144

Dear Superintendent Smith,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Michelle Zeko
350 W 154th St
South Holland, Illinois 60473 1229

Dear Superintendent Zeko,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Mark Martin
150 W 137th St
Riverdale, Illinois 60827 1613

Dear Superintendent Martin,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kate Sievers
600 S Smiley St
O Fallon, Illinois 62269 2316

Dear Superintendent Sievers,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Mark Hansen
2121 S Goebbert Rd
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005 4205

Dear Superintendent Hansen,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Timothy Schurman
642 S East St
Mount Carroll, Illinois 61053 1459

Dear Superintendent Schurman,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Adam Brumbaugh
PO Box 130
Irvington, Illinois 62848 0130

Dear Superintendent Brumbaugh,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Gary DePatis
793 N Main St
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137 3900

Dear Superintendent DePatis,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Ron Gilbert
PO Box 10
Joppa, Illinois 62953 0010

Dear Superintendent Gilbert,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Timothy Page
501 E Lorena Ave
Wood River, Illinois 62095 2123

Dear Superintendent Page,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Thomas Davis
200 W South St
Durand, Illinois 61024 9403

Dear Superintendent Davis,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Lindsey Hall
1600 Dodge Ave
Evanston, Illinois 60201 3449

Dear Superintendent Hall,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Donald Owen
4411 185th St
Country Club Hills, Illinois 60478 4501

Dear Superintendent Owen,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Victor White
400 N Sycamore St
Villa Grove, Illinois 61956 9771

Dear Superintendent White,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Scott Amerio
1802 Cedar St
Lawrenceville, Illinois 62439 2157

Dear Superintendent Amerio,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Brian Brooks
400 S Elm St
Centralia, Illinois 62801 3910

Dear Superintendent Brooks,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Rod Grimsley
4175 State Route 71
Oswego, Illinois 60543 8340

Dear Superintendent Grimsley,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Andy Larson
2800 29th St
Zion, Illinois 60099 3010

Dear Superintendent Larson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Drusilla Lobmaster
1370 N Riverwoods Rd
Lincolnshire, Illinois 60069 2402

Dear Superintendent Lobmaster,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Bonnie McArthur
1531 Jones Point Rd
Grayslake, Illinois 60030 3536

Dear Superintendent McArthur,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Todd Pence
650 Academic Dr
Algonquin, Illinois 60102 4423

Dear Superintendent Pence,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Michelle Ramage
79 Grove St
Prophetstown, Illinois 61277 9376

Dear Superintendent Ramage,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Barbara Thompson
125 W Ellsworth St
Westville, Illinois 61883 1233

Dear Superintendent Thompson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Susan Zola
1800 Storey Ln
Cottage Hills, Illinois 62018 1346

Dear Superintendent Zola,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jason Bauer
201 N Miller St
Waverly, Illinois 62692 1041

Dear Superintendent Bauer,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Gregory Fuerstenau
21962 Akin Blacktop
Akin, Illinois 62890 1304

Dear Superintendent Fuerstenau,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Ronald Graham
209 N Mitchell St
Braceville, Illinois 60407 9068

Dear Superintendent Graham,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Fred Lamkey
1002 SW 6th St
Aledo, Illinois 61231 2100

Dear Superintendent Lamkey,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent David Meister
320 W Main St
Ottawa, Illinois 61350 2825

Dear Superintendent Meister,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
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While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jill Rogers
301 W Butternut St
Elmwood, Illinois 61529 9454

Dear Superintendent Rogers,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kevin Ross
3020 W Willow Knolls Dr
Peoria, Illinois 61614 8127

Dear Superintendent Ross,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Dee Scott
1721 Boul Ave
Swansea, Illinois 62226 4254

Dear Superintendent Scott,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Monty Aldrich
500 W Clover St
Hutsonville, Illinois 62433 1017

Dear Superintendent Aldrich,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Cathy Croy
300 E Monroe St
Bloomington, Illinois 61701 4028

Dear Superintendent Croy,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Joel Hackney
652 E Main St
Cuba, Illinois 61427 5211

Dear Superintendent Hackney,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Robin Becker
2204 Concord Arenzville Rd
Concord, Illinois 62631 5017

Dear Superintendent Becker,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jennifer Filyaw
524 E Schaumburg Rd
Schaumburg, Illinois 60194 3510

Dear Superintendent Filyaw,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kevin Meyer
14025 S Harrison Ave
Posen, Illinois 60469 1022

Dear Superintendent Meyer,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Brad Morris
525 E 162nd St
South Holland, Illinois 60473 2384

Dear Superintendent Morris,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Patricia Cornell
410 E Washington St
Downs, Illinois 61736 9380

Dear Superintendent Cornell,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Dave Fults
511 E Main St
Benton, Illinois 62812 2522

Dear Superintendent Fults,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Mark Heuring
115 High St
Bradford, Illinois 61421 5087

Dear Superintendent Heuring,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Tami Kampwerth
PO Box 186
Donovan, Illinois 60931 0186

Dear Superintendent Kampwerth,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Joe Novsek
504 E Warren St
Bunker Hill, Illinois 62014 1102

Dear Superintendent Novsek,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Tom Siegler
920 N Illinois St
Belleville, Illinois 62220 4374

Dear Superintendent Siegler,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jeff Strieker
320 Stadium Dr
Pekin, Illinois 61554 5266

Dear Superintendent Strieker,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Mike Toeben
PO Box 7
Armstrong, Illinois 61812 0007

Dear Superintendent Toeben,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Lance Landeck
105 N E St
Monmouth, Illinois 61462 1667

Dear Superintendent Landeck,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Larry Lilly
470 N Lake St
Mundelein, Illinois 60060 1825

Dear Superintendent Lilly,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Tony Reeley
1602 Dixon Rd
Rock Falls, Illinois 61071 1913

Dear Superintendent Reeley,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Todd Vilardo
1919 Caton Farm Rd
Crest Hill, Illinois 60403 1700

Dear Superintendent Vilardo,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Carmen Ayala
651 S Morgan St
Virginia, Illinois 62691 1547

Dear Superintendent Ayala,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kimberly Boryszewski
PO Box 230
Bluffs, Illinois 62621 0230

Dear Superintendent Boryszewski,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Daniel Cates
PO Box 187
Dieterich, Illinois 62424 0187

Dear Superintendent Cates,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Edward Condon
509 N Prairie St
Raymond, Illinois 62560 4906

Dear Superintendent Condon,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Shelly Davis-Jones
304 E McNair Rd
Winnebago, Illinois 61088 9014

Dear Superintendent Davis-Jones,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Andrew DuRoss
1475 Maple Ave
Northbrook, Illinois 60062 5418

Dear Superintendent DuRoss,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Lea Frost
164 S Prospect Ave
Park Ridge, Illinois 60068 4035

Dear Superintendent Frost,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent James Gay
9440 Kenton Ave
Skokie, Illinois 60076 1338

Dear Superintendent Gay,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Hughes George
5050 Madison St
Skokie, Illinois 60077 2578

Dear Superintendent George,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Larry Hewitt
640 Eastern Ave
Bellwood, Illinois 60104 1878

Dear Superintendent Hewitt,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Teresa Hill
906 Walton St
Melrose Park, Illinois 60160 3540

Dear Superintendent Hill,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kathleen Hyland
6633 16th St
Berwyn, Illinois 60402 1320

Dear Superintendent Hyland,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Janice Jackson
4225 Wolf Rd
Western Springs, Illinois 60558 1453

Dear Superintendent Jackson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Gregory Jackson
333 N Park Rd
La Grange Park, Illinois 60526 1802

Dear Superintendent Jackson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kevin Jauch
701 7th Ave
La Grange, Illinois 60525 6705

Dear Superintendent Jauch,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent David Katzin
100 S Brainard Ave
La Grange, Illinois 60525 2101

Dear Superintendent Katzin,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Timothy Kilrea
7500 W Montrose Ave
Norridge, Illinois 60706 1153

Dear Superintendent Kilrea,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jill Kingsfield
8201 W Fullerton Ave
Elmwood Park, Illinois 60707 2449

Dear Superintendent Kingsfield,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent David Kroeze
5001 S Long Ave
Chicago, Illinois 60638 1733

Dear Superintendent Kroeze,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Christina Leahy
8800 W 119th St
Palos Park, Illinois 60464 1081

Dear Superintendent Leahy,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Raymond Lechner
6500 W 95th St
Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453 2167

Dear Superintendent Lechner,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Crystal LeRoy
4201 W 93rd St
Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453 1998

Dear Superintendent LeRoy,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Margaret Longo
12809 S McVickers Ave
Palos Heights, Illinois 60463 2351

Dear Superintendent Longo,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Michael Maguire
12300 Greenwood Ave
Blue Island, Illinois 60406 1558

Dear Superintendent Maguire,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Colleen Mckay
16931 Grissom Dr
Tinley Park, Illinois 60477 2318

Dear Superintendent Mckay,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Dale Mitchell
191 W 155th Pl
Harvey, Illinois 60426 3413

Dear Superintendent Mitchell,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kevin Nohelty
13945 S Green Bay Ave
Burnham, Illinois 60633 1671

Dear Superintendent Nohelty,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Blair Nuccio
540 Superior Ave
Calumet City, Illinois 60409 3452

Dear Superintendent Nuccio,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Frank Patrick
41 E Elmwood Dr
Chicago Heights, Illinois 60411 1104

Dear Superintendent Patrick,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Elizabeth Reynolds
30 W 16th St
Chicago Heights, Illinois 60411 3412

Dear Superintendent Reynolds,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Daniel Riordan
2950 Glenwood Dyer Rd
Lynwood, Illinois 60411 9755

Dear Superintendent Riordan,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Michael Riordan
3753 Park Ave
Steger, Illinois 60475 1818

Dear Superintendent Riordan,

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jesse Rodriguez
800 Porter St
Lemont, Illinois 60439 3777

Dear Superintendent Rodriguez,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Andrea Sala
10701 Kilpatrick Ave
Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453 6203

Dear Superintendent Sala,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Paul Sally
6034 W 77th St
Burbank, Illinois 60459 3112

Dear Superintendent Sally,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Anthony Scarsella
20550 S Cicero Ave
Matteson, Illinois 60443 1646

Dear Superintendent Scarsella,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Glenn Schlichting
15233 Pulaski Rd
Midlothian, Illinois 60445 3755

Dear Superintendent Schlichting,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent David Schuler
999 Kedzie Ave
Flossmoor, Illinois 60422 2248

Dear Superintendent Schuler,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Dirk Skogsberg
540 N Rush St
Stockton, Illinois 61085 1033

Dear Superintendent Skogsberg,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Tom Smyth
501 E South St
Freeport, Illinois 61032 9676

Dear Superintendent Smyth,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Edward Stange
401 Fremont St
Lena, Illinois 61048 8610

Dear Superintendent Stange,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kevin Suchinski
703 S New St
Champaign, Illinois 61820 5818

Dear Superintendent Suchinski,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Leotis Swopes
201 N Phillips St
Thomasboro, Illinois 61878 9784

Dear Superintendent Swopes,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Scott Thompson
PO Box 409
Saint Joseph, Illinois 61873 0409

Dear Superintendent Thompson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kenneth Wallace
503 Pine St
Marshall, Illinois 62441 1467

Dear Superintendent Wallace,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Catherine Wang
410 W Polk Ave
Charleston, Illinois 61920 2557

Dear Superintendent Wang,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Brian Wegley
PO Box 280
Neoga, Illinois 62447 0280

Dear Superintendent Wegley,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Troy Whalen
409 S Prairie St
Tuscola, Illinois 61953 1770

Dear Superintendent Whalen,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Creg Williams
351 W Washington St
Arcola, Illinois 61910 1120

Dear Superintendent Williams,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Mable Alfred
PO Box 190
Robinson, Illinois 62454 0189

Dear Superintendent Alfred,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent J Amadio
1250 Judy Ave
Bridgeport, Illinois 62417 1321

Dear Superintendent Amadio,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kevin Anderson
1400 13th St
Carlyle, Illinois 62231 1011

Dear Superintendent Anderson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Don Angelaccio
699 Wesclin Rd
Trenton, Illinois 62293 2627

Dear Superintendent Angelaccio,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Elaine Aumiller
PO Box 267
Bartelso, Illinois 62218 0267

Dear Superintendent Aumiller,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Carol Baker
18004 Saint Rose Rd
Breese, Illinois 62230 2578

Dear Superintendent Baker,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Brian Barnhart
21075 N Hails Ln
Texico, Illinois 62889 2932

Dear Superintendent Barnhart,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Lori Bein
9475 N IL Highway 148
Mount Vernon, Illinois 62864 6379

Dear Superintendent Bein,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Terri Bresnahan
405 S Main St
Iuka, Illinois 62849 1011

Dear Superintendent Bresnahan,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Joyce Carmine
700 E Lincoln Ave
Hinckley, Illinois 60520 9502

Dear Superintendent Carmine,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Louis Cavallo
605 N 7th St
Fairbury, Illinois 61739 1300

Dear Superintendent Cavallo,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Cafer Cengiz
202 E Falcon Hwy
Flanagan, Illinois 61740 7503

Dear Superintendent Cengiz,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Margaret Clauson
39 Main St
Saunemin, Illinois 61769 6110

Dear Superintendent Clauson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Scott Clay
400 W Front St
Hartsburg, Illinois 62643 7325

Dear Superintendent Clay,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Blondean Davis
164 Euclid Ave
Bloomington, Illinois 60108 1634

Dear Superintendent Davis,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Blondean Davis
1860 Glen Ellyn Rd
Glendale Heights, Illinois 60139 2261

Dear Superintendent Davis,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Dane Delli
0S150 Winfield Rd
Winfield, Illinois 60190 1266

Dear Superintendent Delli,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kate Donegan
7925 Janes Ave
Woodridge, Illinois 60517 3821

Dear Superintendent Donegan,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Anthony Edison
1000 W Green St
Bensenville, Illinois 60106 2008

Dear Superintendent Edison,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Paul Enderle
5211 Center Ave
Lisle, Illinois 60532 2306

Dear Superintendent Enderle,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Arthur Fessler
200 N Hickory St
Galatia, Illinois 62935 1002

Dear Superintendent Fessler,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Franzy Fleck
2200A Illinois Ave
Eldorado, Illinois 62930 1851

Dear Superintendent Fleck,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Beth Flores
PO Box 130
Allendale, Illinois 62410 0130

Dear Superintendent Flores,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Brian Ganan
21191 Shawneetown Rd
Thompsonville, Illinois 62890 1035

Dear Superintendent Ganan,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent James Garwood
4626 State Highway 154
Sesser, Illinois 62884 2277

Dear Superintendent Garwood,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Stephen Geraci
601 N 1st St
Vienna, Illinois 62995 1603

Dear Superintendent Geraci,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Paul Goren
4040 N Division St
Morris, Illinois 60450 9357

Dear Superintendent Goren,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Dawn Green
PO Box 467
Minooka, Illinois 60447 0467

Dear Superintendent Green,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Craig Gwaltney
1502 E US Highway 136
Table Grove, Illinois 61482 9612

Dear Superintendent Gwaltney,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Patricia Hahto
35265 N IL Route 97
London Mills, Illinois 61544 9312

Dear Superintendent Hahto,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent S Harrison-Williams
845 Walnut St
Bushnell, Illinois 61422 1253

Dear Superintendent Harrison-Williams,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Ty Harting
740 Maple Ave
Rushville, Illinois 62681 1048

Dear Superintendent Harting,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Mary Havis
PO Box 478
Ohio, Illinois 61349 0478

Dear Superintendent Havis,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Cecilia Heiberger
801 S Main St
La Moille, Illinois 61330 9499

Dear Superintendent Heiberger,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Laurie Heinz
800 W Erie St
Spring Valley, Illinois 61362 1761

Dear Superintendent Heinz,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Rodolfo Hernandez
300 S West St
Cambridge, Illinois 61238 1430

Dear Superintendent Hernandez,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Paul Hertel
1001 N Main St
Kewanee, Illinois 61443 1361

Dear Superintendent Hertel,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Mark Holder
1062 Boskydell Rd
Carbondale, Illinois 62902 7743

Dear Superintendent Holder,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent A Hollingsworth
4033 S Illinois Ave
Carbondale, Illinois 62903 8375

Dear Superintendent Hollingsworth,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Thomas Hurlburt
593 Ava Rd
Murphysboro, Illinois 62966 4267

Dear Superintendent Hurlburt,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent David Ireland
845 E Jackson St
Du Quoin, Illinois 62832 3871

Dear Superintendent Ireland,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Steven Isoye
1401 Mounds Rd
Mounds, Illinois 62964 2325

Dear Superintendent Isoye,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Janiece Jackson
7355 Lick Creek Rd
Buncombe, Illinois 62912 3016

Dear Superintendent Jackson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jerry Jordan
201 S 7th St
St Charles, Illinois 60174 2664

Dear Superintendent Jordan,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Serdar Kartal
511 N 2nd St
Cissna Park, Illinois 60924 9734

Dear Superintendent Kartal,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Carol Kelley
PO Box 67
Gilman, Illinois 60938 0067

Dear Superintendent Kelley,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jennifer Kelsall
PO Box 190
Crescent City, Illinois 60928 0190

Dear Superintendent Kelsall,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent William Kendall
400 N Pine St
Mokena, Illinois 60954 1158

Dear Superintendent Kendall,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Tarin Kendrick
PO Box 504
Herscher, Illinois 60941 0504

Dear Superintendent Kendrick,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jennifer Kirmes
111 N Crosswell Ave
Bradley, Illinois 60915 2091

Dear Superintendent Kirmes,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Trisha Kocanda
PO Box 530
Saint Anne, Illinois 60964 0530

Dear Superintendent Kocanda,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kristin Kopta
5200 E Center St
Bourbonnais, Illinois 60914 4464

Dear Superintendent Kopta,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent John Kosirog
PO Box 546
Hopkins Park, Illinois 60944 0546

Dear Superintendent Kosirog,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Carol Kunst
809 E Main St
Knoxville, Illinois 61448 1536

Dear Superintendent Kunst,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Mark Kuzniewski
325 W Kentucky Ave
Williamsfield, Illinois 61489 5479

Dear Superintendent Kuzniewski,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Donna Leak
131 McKinley Ave
Lake Villa, Illinois 60046 8986

Dear Superintendent Leak,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Thomas Livingston
1351 Abbott Court
Buffalo Grove, Illinois 60089 7040

Dear Superintendent Livingston,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Robert Machak
1936 Green Bay Rd
Highland Park, Illinois 60035 3112

Dear Superintendent Machak,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Theresa Madl
1040 Park Ave W
Highland Park, Illinois 60035 2257

Dear Superintendent Madl,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Von Mansfield
285 E Grand Ave
Fox Lake, Illinois 60020 1634

Dear Superintendent Mansfield,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Paul McDermott
400 S Lane St
Ransom, Illinois 60470 8087

Dear Superintendent McDermott,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Donald McKinney
1165 Saint Vincents Ave
La Salle, Illinois 61301 1628

Dear Superintendent McKinney,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent L Mikulich
PO Box 20
Seneca, Illinois 61360 0020

Dear Superintendent Mikulich,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Johnnetta Miller
RR 71 E 3231
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

Dear Superintendent Miller,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Valorie Moore
PO Box 738
Maroa, Illinois 61756 0738

Dear Superintendent Moore,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kimberly Nasshan
250 E Sherman St
White Hall, Illinois 62092 1359

Dear Superintendent Nasshan,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Lenell Navarre
311 Mulberry St
Greenfield, Illinois 62044 1325

Dear Superintendent Navarre,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent David Negron
100 Lincoln Ave
Jerseyville, Illinois 62052 1473

Dear Superintendent Negron,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Alexandra Nicholson
804 W Main St
Mount Olive, Illinois 62069 1549

Dear Superintendent Nicholson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Paul OMalley
708 Saint Louis St
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025 1427

Dear Superintendent OMalley,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Tom OMalley
610 Texas Blvd
Bethalto, Illinois 62010 1754

Dear Superintendent OMalley,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Courtney Orzel
PO Box 9028
Alton, Illinois 62002 9028

Dear Superintendent Orzel,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent David Palzet
2222 Church St
Johnsburg, Illinois 60051 5910

Dear Superintendent Palzet,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Troy Paraday
9406 Riley Rd
Marengo, Illinois 60152 9013

Dear Superintendent Paraday,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kimako Patterson
300 Commerce Dr
Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014 3503

Dear Superintendent Patterson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kim Petrasek
815 Locust St
Red Bud, Illinois 62278 1210

Dear Superintendent Petrasek,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Nick Polyak
PO Box 508
Paw Paw, Illinois 61353 0508

Dear Superintendent Polyak,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Griff Powell
611 Western Ave
Ashton, Illinois 61006 9445

Dear Superintendent Powell,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent James Prather
100 1st St
Kings, Illinois 61068 4500

Dear Superintendent Prather,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Joylynn Pruitt
PO Box 37
Creston, Illinois 60113 0037

Dear Superintendent Pruitt,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jan Rashid
410 E Le Fevre Rd
Sterling, Illinois 61081 1391

Dear Superintendent Rashid,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Michael Riggle
212 N Lightfoot Rd
Farmington, Illinois 61531 9648

Dear Superintendent Riggle,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kevin Russell
206 5th St
Hampton, Illinois 61256 9662

Dear Superintendent Russell,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Martha Ryan-Toye
2002 Eagle Ridge Dr
Silvis, Illinois 61282 1779

Dear Superintendent Ryan-Toye,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Philip Salemi
1619 11th Ave
Moline, Illinois 61265 3143

Dear Superintendent Salemi,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kyle Schumacher
118 E Washington St
O Fallon, Illinois 62269 1419

Dear Superintendent Schumacher,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Julie Shellberg
1700 Jerome Ln
Cahokia, Illinois 62206 2329

Dear Superintendent Shellberg,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kevin Skinkis
4 Rocket Dr
Rochester, Illinois 62563 9282

Dear Superintendent Skinkis,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Dana Smith
201 W Mulberry St
Chatham, Illinois 62629 1329

Dear Superintendent Smith,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jeannie Stachowiak
208 N West Ave
Mason City, Illinois 62664 1066

Dear Superintendent Stachowiak,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jeff Stawick
304 E Almond Dr
Washington, Illinois 61571 3104

Dear Superintendent Stawick,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Darryl Taylor
815 E Chatham St
Metamora, Illinois 61548 8745

Dear Superintendent Taylor,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Lakisha Thigpen
103 Warrior Way
Germantown Hills, Illinois 61548 9108

Dear Superintendent Thigpen,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Johnnie Thomas
109 W Cruger Ave
Eureka, Illinois 61530 1345

Dear Superintendent Thomas,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Mary Ticknor
7915 US Route 136
Potomac, Illinois 61865 3158

Dear Superintendent Ticknor,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Timothy Truesdale
PO Box 350
Bismarck, Illinois 61814 0350

Dear Superintendent Truesdale,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Patricia Viniard
1605 S Washington St
Lockport, Illinois 60441 4241

Dear Superintendent Viniard,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Brad Voehringer
808 Adams St
Lockport, Illinois 60441 3710

Dear Superintendent Voehringer,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Nicolas Wade
25440 S Gougar Rd
Manhattan, Illinois 60442 9511

Dear Superintendent Wade,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Nancy Wagner
102 S Cedar Rd
New Lenox, Illinois 60451 1702

Dear Superintendent Wagner,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Cindy Whittaker
801 W Normantown Rd
Romeoville, Illinois 60446 4330

Dear Superintendent Whittaker,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Eric Witherspoon
ISU Campus Box 7000
Normal, Illinois 61790 0001

Dear Superintendent Witherspoon,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Rita Wojtylewski
1212 W Springfield Ave
Urbana, Illinois 61801 2909

Dear Superintendent Wojtylewski,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Angela Zajac
5318 135th St
Crestwood, Illinois 60445 1504

Dear Superintendent Zajac,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Julie Kraemer
7540 S 86th Ave
Justice, Illinois 60458 1168

Dear Superintendent Kraemer,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Chris Long
6135 108th St
Chicago Ridge, Illinois 60415 2190

Dear Superintendent Long,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jeff Patchett
3223 IL Route 176
Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014 2145

Dear Superintendent Patchett,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Josh Quick
696 N Colfax St
Byron, Illinois 61010 1439

Dear Superintendent Quick,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Steven Butler
512 W Spresser St
Taylorville, Illinois 62568 1849

Dear Superintendent Butler,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Benjamin Johnson
1877 W. Downer Pl
Aurora, Illinois 60506 7302

Dear Superintendent Johnson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Richard Craven
501 7th St
Rockford, Illinois 61104 1242

Dear Superintendent Craven,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kathy Countryman
522 E Main St
Heyworth, Illinois 61745 9694

Dear Superintendent Countryman,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent William Mattingly
2000 Lewis Ave
North Chicago, Illinois 60064 2543

Dear Superintendent Mattingly,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Travis McGuire
2350 E 1025th Rd
Ottawa, Illinois 61350 9253

Dear Superintendent McGuire,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Brent ODaniell
203 E Throp St
Troy, Illinois 62294 1231

Dear Superintendent ODaniell,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Rick Schmitt
PO Box 323
Saint Libory, Illinois 62282 0323

Dear Superintendent Schmitt,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jay Streicher
501 Washington St
Pekin, Illinois 61554 4287

Dear Superintendent Streicher,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Chad Willis
1950 W Roosevelt Rd
Chicago, Illinois 60608 1245

Dear Superintendent Willis,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Susan Wilson
21751 N 575th St
Hume, Illinois 61932 7013

Dear Superintendent Wilson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Curt Nettles
829 W Main St
Carlinville, Illinois 62626 1261

Dear Superintendent Nettles,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Tom Mulligan
2 Sage Dr
Monticello, Illinois 61856 1813

Dear Superintendent Mulligan,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kenneth Schwengel
410 Huntwood Rd
Swansea, Illinois 62226 1824

Dear Superintendent Schwengel,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Michael Smith
315 W Church St
Pleasant Plains, Illinois 62677 9709

Dear Superintendent Smith,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Norman Tracy
110 E Williams St
Danville, Illinois 61832 4634

Dear Superintendent Tracy,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Craig Benes
516 Jordan St
Jacksonville, Illinois 62650 1997

Dear Superintendent Benes,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Daniel Bridges
1008 N Hena St
Greenville, Illinois 62246 1378

Dear Superintendent Bridges,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kevin Carey
PO Box 377
Pana, Illinois 62557 0377

Dear Superintendent Carey,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Robert Carlo
PO Box 20
Kincaid, Illinois 62540 0020

Dear Superintendent Carlo,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Michael Connolly
1311 Vandalia Rd
Hillsboro, Illinois 62049 2034

Dear Superintendent Connolly,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent John Corbett
511 Oberle St
Nokomis, Illinois 62075 1015

Dear Superintendent Corbett,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent John Correll
1201 5th Ave
Belvidere, Illinois 61008 5125

Dear Superintendent Correll,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Philip Ehrhardt
3131 Techny Rd
Northbrook, Illinois 60062 5857

Dear Superintendent Ehrhardt,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kerry Foderaro
777 E Algonquin Rd
Des Plaines, Illinois 60016 6251

Dear Superintendent Foderaro,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Scott Helton
2915 Maple St
Franklin Park, Illinois 60131 3031

Dear Superintendent Helton,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Victor III
3401 Gunderson Ave
Berwyn, Illinois 60402 3771

Dear Superintendent III,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Thomas Schneider
15100 S 94th Ave
Orland Park, Illinois 60462 3291

Dear Superintendent Schneider,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent William Shields
15 School St
Chadwick, Illinois 61014 9371

Dear Superintendent Shields,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent James Stelter
201 S Orange St
Orangeville, Illinois 61060 9720

Dear Superintendent Stelter,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Victoria Tabbert
400 E Wabash Ave
Rantoul, Illinois 61866 3013

Dear Superintendent Tabbert,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Tim Arnold
777 Memorial Dr
Breese, Illinois 62230 1376

Dear Superintendent Arnold,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jon Bartelt
PO Box 189
Opdyke, Illinois 62872 0189

Dear Superintendent Bartelt,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Patrick Broncato
1300 Hawthorn Rd
Salem, Illinois 62881 1001

Dear Superintendent Broncato,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent John Butts
980 Park Ave
Genoa, Illinois 60135 1423

Dear Superintendent Butts,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kari Cremascoli
300 S Harrison St
Colfax, Illinois 61728 9216

Dear Superintendent Cremascoli,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Douglas Domeracki
8502 Bailey Rd
Darien, Illinois 60561 5333

Dear Superintendent Domeracki,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Keith Filipiak
40 S Main St
Harrisburg, Illinois 62946 1638

Dear Superintendent Filipiak,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Paul Gordon
8820 Scott School Rd
Morris, Illinois 60450 8425

Dear Superintendent Gordon,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Charles Johns
335 W Wilson St
Batavia, Illinois 60510 1948

Dear Superintendent Johns,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Melissa Kaczowski
405 S Gladstone Ave
Aurora, Illinois 60506 5309

Dear Superintendent Kaczowski,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent R Langton
500 North Ave
Winthrop Harbor, Illinois 60096 1186

Dear Superintendent Langton,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent David Larson
24226 W Beach Grove Rd
Antioch, Illinois 60002 2234

Dear Superintendent Larson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Bruce Law
964 Spafford St
Antioch, Illinois 60002 1459

Dear Superintendent Law,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent David Moyer
201 S Champaign St
Bement, Illinois 61813 1512

Dear Superintendent Moyer,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Sean Nugent
PO Box 728
Brighton, Illinois 62012 0728

Dear Superintendent Nugent,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent James Ongtengco
3200 Maryville Rd
Granite City, Illinois 62040 5144

Dear Superintendent Ongtengco,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jerry OShea
210 E Saint Louis Ave
East Alton, Illinois 62024 1455

Dear Superintendent OShea,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Anthony Palmisano
403 Orchard St
Fox River Grove, Illinois 60021 1145

Dear Superintendent Palmisano,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Lynn Panega
1011 N Green St
McHenry, Illinois 60050 5720

Dear Superintendent Panega,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Matt Rich
6018 W Lancaster Rd
Bartonville, Illinois 61607 2117

Dear Superintendent Rich,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jeffrey Schuler
125 Diamond Ct
Shiloh, Illinois 62269 3617

Dear Superintendent Schuler,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Theodore Stec
1301 Eagle Ave
Washington, Illinois 61571 1111

Dear Superintendent Stec,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Karen Sullivan
1401 E Washington St
East Peoria, Illinois 61611 2863

Dear Superintendent Sullivan,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Emily Tammaru
1050 S 4th Ave Ste 200
Morton, Illinois 61550 2502

Dear Superintendent Tammaru,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Henry Thiele
PO Box 320
Roanoke, Illinois 61561 0320

Dear Superintendent Thiele,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Heidi Wennstrom
1323 E 7th St
Lockport, Illinois 60441 3823

Dear Superintendent Wennstrom,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Don White
1801 E Lincoln Hwy
New Lenox, Illinois 60451 3801

Dear Superintendent White,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent James Acklin
404 W State St # 1
Payson, Illinois 62360 1041

Dear Superintendent Acklin,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kenton Hall
7 Happ Rd
Northfield, Illinois 60093 3411

Dear Superintendent Hall,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent John Hasten
6101 Ruby St
Rosemont, Illinois 60018 4450

Dear Superintendent Hasten,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Danette Young
725 N Main St
Sullivan, Illinois 61951 1540

Dear Superintendent Young,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Lorraine Bailey
PO Box 104
Albers, Illinois 62215 0104

Dear Superintendent Bailey,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Lorraine Bailey
7740 Old US Highway 50
Breese, Illinois 62230 3822

Dear Superintendent Bailey,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jeremy Larson
18550 W Millburn Rd
Old Mill Creek, Illinois 60083 9248

Dear Superintendent Larson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent David Cowger
8605 N 2nd St
Machesney Park, Illinois 61115 2003

Dear Superintendent Cowger,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Mark Doan
700 N Schoenbeck Rd
Prospect Heights, Illinois 60070 1231

Dear Superintendent Doan,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Scott Cameron
PO Box 428
Kirkland, Illinois 60146 0428

Dear Superintendent Cameron,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent William Fritcher
PO Box 399
Norris City, Illinois 62869 0399

Dear Superintendent Fritcher,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jeffrey Fritchtnitch
211 W Robinson St
Carmi, Illinois 62821 1640

Dear Superintendent Fritchtnitch,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Cary Jackson
413 N Appleknocker St
Cobden, Illinois 62920 2121

Dear Superintendent Jackson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jennifer Garrison
9401 Waukegan Rd
Morton Grove, Illinois 60053 1353

Dear Superintendent Garrison,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Julie Healy
999 N Strong Ave
Spring Valley, Illinois 61362 1238

Dear Superintendent Healy,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Melissa Ritter
PO Box 380
Brimfield, Illinois 61517 0380

Dear Superintendent Ritter,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Michael Shackelford
7401 Westchester Dr
Belleville, Illinois 62223 2635

Dear Superintendent Shackelford,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jeremy Darnell
700 E Granville Ave
Roselle, Illinois 60172 1406

Dear Superintendent Darnell,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Clifford McClure
297 N 33rd Rd
La Salle, Illinois 61301 9728

Dear Superintendent McClure,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Robert Donkin
1900 E Kensington Rd
Mt Prospect, Illinois 60056 1924

Dear Superintendent Donkin,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jason Henry
8931 Fullerton Ave
River Grove, Illinois 60171 1810

Dear Superintendent Henry,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Stephen Smith
210 Main St
Scales Mound, Illinois 61075 9393

Dear Superintendent Smith,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kelly Clark
PO Box 117
Graymont, Illinois 61743 0117

Dear Superintendent Clark,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Chris Grant
1000 Union St
Morris, Illinois 60450 1234

Dear Superintendent Grant,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Quent Hamilton
15501 E Avenue L
Lewistown, Illinois 61542 9454

Dear Superintendent Hamilton,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kristin Ing
600 E Water St
Pinckneyville, Illinois 62274 1472

Dear Superintendent Ing,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Aaron Mattox
310 James St
Barrington, Illinois 60010 3329

Dear Superintendent Mattox,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent E Towers
12190 US Route 150
Oakwood, Illinois 61858 6174

Dear Superintendent Towers,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Christopher Janssen
4100 Joliet Ave
Lyons, Illinois 60534 1513

Dear Superintendent Janssen,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kyle Reynolds
19266 Burnham Ave
Lansing, Illinois 60438 3822

Dear Superintendent Reynolds,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Rolf Sivertsen
1206 Franklin St
Galena, Illinois 61036 1317

Dear Superintendent Sivertsen,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Don Willett
301 E Columbia St
Arthur, Illinois 61911 1403

Dear Superintendent Willett,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jeanne Davis
1560 Bloomingdale Rd
Glendale Heights, Illinois 60139 2734

Dear Superintendent Davis,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Angela Simmons
501 Warrior Way
Athens, Illinois 62613 9473

Dear Superintendent Simmons,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Lucinda Schmitt
1 E Marissa St
Marissa, Illinois 62257 1185

Dear Superintendent Schmitt,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kerry Cox
PO Box 99
Shirland, Illinois 61079 0099

Dear Superintendent Cox,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kevin Bowman
901 6th St
Bluford, Illinois 62814 1418

Dear Superintendent Bowman,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Mark Scott
105 W A St
Belleville, Illinois 62220 1326

Dear Superintendent Scott,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Patrick Halloran
1177 S Dee Rd
Park Ridge, Illinois 60068 4379

Dear Superintendent Halloran,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kristopher Monn
292 Torrence Ave
Calumet City, Illinois 60409 1941

Dear Superintendent Monn,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kent Bugg
1300 S Mill St
Nashville, Illinois 62263 2083

Dear Superintendent Bugg,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Cindy Christensen
801 S Franklin St
Dwight, Illinois 60420 1339

Dear Superintendent Christensen,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Nancy Dillow
1 S Cass Ave Ste 202
Westmont, Illinois 60559 1893

Dear Superintendent Dillow,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Shannon Dudek
22W600 Butterfield Rd
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137 6901

Dear Superintendent Dudek,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Al Gegenheimer
PO Box 427
Vienna, Illinois 62995 0427

Dear Superintendent Gegenheimer,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Ron Harris
404 W Main St
La Harpe, Illinois 61450 9280

Dear Superintendent Harris,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kenneth Lee
3706 Florida Ave
Gurnee, Illinois 60031 5527

Dear Superintendent Lee,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Michael Perrott
227 W Judd St
Woodstock, Illinois 60098 3126

Dear Superintendent Perrott,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Michael Perrott
300 S Cedar Bluff Dr
Valmeyer, Illinois 62295 3133

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kathy Perry
5 Veterans Pkwy
Columbia, Illinois 62236 1147

Dear Superintendent Perry,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jeff Fetcho
7071 US 45 S
Carrier Mills, Illinois 62917 1230

Dear Superintendent Fetcho,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Ryan Olson
6202 Vollmer Rd
Matteson, Illinois 60443 1058

Dear Superintendent Olson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kent Young
PO Box 97
Bethany, Illinois 61914 0097

Dear Superintendent Young,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Todd Fox
1804 County Road 445 N
Fairfield, Illinois 62837 2973

Dear Superintendent Fox,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Bob Gound
500 E Main St
Gardner, Illinois 60424 6316

Dear Superintendent Gound,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Vicki Hardy
921 Creamery Hill Rd
Dallas City, Illinois 62330 1216

Dear Superintendent Hardy,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Ryan Olson
400 Broadway
Highland, Illinois 62249 2024

Dear Superintendent Olson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kim Schilson
421 W Harnett St
Mascoutah, Illinois 62258 1362

Dear Superintendent Schilson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Joseph Yurko
936 W Michigan Ave
Jacksonville, Illinois 62650 3113

Dear Superintendent Yurko,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Richard Morgan
430 W North St
Warrensburg, Illinois 62573 2001

Dear Superintendent Morgan,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Paula Markey
3901 21st St
Zion, Illinois 60099 1476

Dear Superintendent Markey,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Joe Blessman
401 McDonough St
Barry, Illinois 62312 1031

Dear Superintendent Blessman,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Carl Johnson
201 N Scoville Ave
Oak Park, Illinois 60302 2264

Dear Superintendent Johnson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Shane Kazubowski
160 Ridgewood Rd
Riverside, Illinois 60546 2408

Dear Superintendent Kazubowski,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Thomas Akers
105 N College St
Assumption, Illinois 62510 1032

Dear Superintendent Akers,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Shannon Bumann
42 W Madison St 2nd Flr
Chicago, Illinois 60602 4413

Dear Superintendent Bumann,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Scott Kuffel
1514 US Route 34
Biggsville, Illinois 61418 5012

Dear Superintendent Kuffel,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Matt Nordstrom
510 W Elm St
Gillespie, Illinois 62033 1167

Dear Superintendent Nordstrom,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Doug ORiley
201 W Clay St
Collinsville, Illinois 62234 3219

Dear Superintendent ORiley,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Chris Sullens
115 Bondurant St
Washington, Illinois 61571 2448

Dear Superintendent Sullens,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Linda Dvorak
525 Sunset Ridge Rd
Northfield, Illinois 60093 1025

Dear Superintendent Dvorak,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Dale Hastings
5200 N Cumberland Ave
Norridge, Illinois 60706 1499

Dear Superintendent Hastings,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Daniel Hylbert
5110 W 24th St
Cicero, Illinois 60804 2948

Dear Superintendent Hylbert,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jeffrey Alstadt
609 S Lafayette St
Newton, Illinois 62448 1317

Dear Superintendent Alstadt,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent James Bunting
2456 N Mango Ave
Chicago, Illinois 60639 2313

Dear Superintendent Bunting,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Tonya Evans
361 W Main St # 100
Albion, Illinois 62806 1011

Dear Superintendent Evans,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Stephen Westrick
212 W Wilson St
Peotone, Illinois 60468 9205

Dear Superintendent Westrick,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Nathaniel Wilson
310 S Front St
Kansas, Illinois 61933 6205

Dear Superintendent Wilson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Christopher Grode
402 N Jefferson St
Astoria, Illinois 61501 8670

Dear Superintendent Grode,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Belinda Hill
4201 Sycamore St
Cairo, Illinois 62914 1047

Dear Superintendent Hill,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Lori James-Gross
309 Cook Ave
Jonesboro, Illinois 62952 1118

Dear Superintendent James-Gross,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Larry Lovel
2165 Telegraph Rd
Bannockburn, Illinois 60015 1531

Dear Superintendent Lovel,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Justin Miller
946 N 33rd Rd
Utica, Illinois 61373 9622

Dear Superintendent Miller,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Stephen Murphy
101 Calhoun Ave
Hardin, Illinois 62047 0387

Dear Superintendent Murphy,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kevin Spain
1900 W Monroe St
Springfield, Illinois 62704 1531

Dear Superintendent Spain,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Andrew Johnson
417 5th St
Aurora, Illinois 60505 4700

Dear Superintendent Johnson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Craig Kujawa
7600 Central Ave
Burbank, Illinois 60459 1308

Dear Superintendent Kujawa,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Mark Miller
3015 W 163rd St
Markham, Illinois 60428 5626

Dear Superintendent Miller,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Ryan Robinson
100 W 10th St
Chicago Heights, Illinois 60411 2002

Dear Superintendent Robinson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent John Ashby
350 S Hull St
Aviston, Illinois 62216 3407

Dear Superintendent Ashby,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Brian Brink
3185 Selmaville Rd
Salem, Illinois 62881 6603

Dear Superintendent Brink,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Erik Estill
162 S York St
Elmhurst, Illinois 60126 3417

Dear Superintendent Estill,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Marilyn Holt
330 S Giant City Rd
Carbondale, Illinois 62902 5042

Dear Superintendent Holt,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Gina Ilbery
301 W Mulberry St
Pinckneyville, Illinois 62274 1370

Dear Superintendent Ilbery,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Sandra Kabat
405 S Gladstone Ave
Aurora, Illinois 60506 5309

Dear Superintendent Kabat,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent David Larkin
11315 W Wadsworth Rd
Beach Park, Illinois 60099 3359

Dear Superintendent Larkin,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Aletta Lawrence
26177 W Grass Lake Rd
Antioch, Illinois 60002 9613

Dear Superintendent Lawrence,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Stuart Parks
2115 Crystal Lake Rd
Cary, Illinois 60013 1426

Dear Superintendent Parks,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Ellie Rush
5613 W Tuscarora Rd
Peoria, Illinois 61607 9564

Dear Superintendent Rush,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Mark Zahm
8701 Menard Ave
Morton Grove, Illinois 60053 3052

Dear Superintendent Zahm,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Brad Tuttle
15733 S Bell Rd
Homer Glen, Illinois 60491 8404

Dear Superintendent Tuttle,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent William Caron
438 E State Highway 33
Beecher City, Illinois 62414 2219

Dear Superintendent Caron,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Shawn Teske
PO Box 130
Ludlow, Illinois 60949 0130

Dear Superintendent Teske,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Bradley Albrecht
444 S Locust St
Flora, Illinois 62839 2119

Dear Superintendent Albrecht,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent David Gilliland
PO Box 147
Johnston City, Illinois 62951 0147

Dear Superintendent Gilliland,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Greg Herbst
224 Morgan Rd
Galva, Illinois 61434 1090

Dear Superintendent Herbst,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Tori Lindeman
400 S Old Rand Rd
Lake Zurich, Illinois 60047 2459

Dear Superintendent Lindeman,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Joshua Stafford
400 Campus Dr
Dakota, Illinois 61018 9803

Dear Superintendent Stafford,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Greg Frehner
PO Box 235
Cisne, Illinois 62823 0235

Dear Superintendent Frehner,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Joe Nighswander
801 N Deneen St
Staunton, Illinois 62088 1017

Dear Superintendent Nighswander,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kimberly Shoemaker
1005 State St
East Saint Louis, Illinois 62201 1907

Dear Superintendent Shoemaker,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Vicki Tripp
PO Box 350
Bismarck, Illinois 61814 0350

Dear Superintendent Tripp,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Steve Webb
300 Caterpillar Dr
Joliet, Illinois 60436 1047

Dear Superintendent Webb,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kent Mutchler
18205 Aberdeen St
Homewood, Illinois 60430 2417

Dear Superintendent Mutchler,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Arin Carter
1210 State Route 54W
Clinton, Illinois 61727 2302

Dear Superintendent Carter,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Arin Carter
411 N John St
Farmer City, Illinois 61842 1159

Dear Superintendent Carter,

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jeff Craig
1809 Hovey Ave
Normal, Illinois 61761 4315

Dear Superintendent Craig,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Fred Heid
PO Box 289
Manlius, Illinois 61338 0289

Dear Superintendent Heid,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Lisa Hichens
300 W Van Buren St
Wyoming, Illinois 61491 1172

Dear Superintendent Hichens,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Todd Leden
565 Frederick Rd
Grayslake, Illinois 60030 3909

Dear Superintendent Leden,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Steve Megazzini
211 E Main St
Ottawa, Illinois 61350 3111

Dear Superintendent Megazzini,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jason Pearson
1 Virginia Rd
Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014 7901

Dear Superintendent Pearson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Tony Sanders
9624 256th St N
Port Byron, Illinois 61275 9054

Dear Superintendent Sanders,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Todd Stirn
601 Taylor St
East Peoria, Illinois 61611 2685

Dear Superintendent Stirn,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Shannon Anderson
1416 Maine St
Quincy, Illinois 62301 4261

Dear Superintendent Anderson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Helen Boehrnsen
149 S Elm St
Winchester, Illinois 62694 1246

Dear Superintendent Boehrnsen,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Richard Decman
999 W Dundee Rd
Wheeling, Illinois 60090 3986

Dear Superintendent Decman,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Daniel Hollowell
4804 Harrison St
Hillside, Illinois 60162 1601

Dear Superintendent Hollowell,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Scott Wakeley
307 N Sangamon Ave
Gibson City, Illinois 60936 1255

Dear Superintendent Wakeley,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Geneva Walters
PO Box K
Martinsville, Illinois 62442 0166

Dear Superintendent Walters,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Scott Goselin
598 N Elm St
Gardner, Illinois 60424 7050

Dear Superintendent Goselin,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Lisa Harrod
323 W Washington St
Macomb, Illinois 61455 2118

Dear Superintendent Harrod,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent John Palan
4213 US Highway 12
Richmond, Illinois 60071 9732

Dear Superintendent Palan,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Debra Quain
207 W Main St
Stillman Valley, Illinois 61084 9037

Dear Superintendent Quain,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Charles Stegall
303 Jackson St
Washington, Illinois 61571 1473

Dear Superintendent Stegall,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Charles Stegall
400 N Highland St
Creve Coeur, Illinois 61610 3137

Dear Superintendent Stegall,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent John Thomas
PO Box 350
Bismarck, Illinois 61814 0350

Dear Superintendent Thomas,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Amy Smith
4141 IL Route 84 S
Hanover, Illinois 61041 9631

Dear Superintendent Smith,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Hector Garcia
PO Box 38
Zeigler, Illinois 62999 0038

Dear Superintendent Garcia,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Michael Rustman
1275 Avenue of The Cities
East Moline, Illinois 61244 4145

Dear Superintendent Rustman,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Timothy Shimp
PO Box 250
Lovejoy, Illinois 62059 0250

Dear Superintendent Shimp,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent John Sparlin
501 S McKinley St
Havana, Illinois 62644 1867

Dear Superintendent Sparlin,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Demetra Turman
24920 S Sage St
Channahon, Illinois 60410 8617

Dear Superintendent Turman,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Mike Curry
PO Box 419
Pecatonica, Illinois 61063 0419

Dear Superintendent Curry,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Joe Sornberger
PO Box 9
Pearl City, Illinois 61062 0009

Dear Superintendent Sornberger,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent John Asplund
815 W 7th St
Centralia, Illinois 62801 5726

Dear Superintendent Asplund,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Tim Farquer
125 State Highway 146 W
Golconda, Illinois 62938 4203

Dear Superintendent Farquer,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Steve Wilder
PO Box 19429
Springfield, Illinois 62794 9429

Dear Superintendent Wilder,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Mary Baima
PO Box 260
Ashland, Illinois 62612 0260

Dear Superintendent Baima,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent James Carlson
7 S Ewing St
Altamont, Illinois 62411 1265

Dear Superintendent Carlson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Mark Cross
307 Salem St
Rockton, Illinois 61072 2630

Dear Superintendent Cross,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kristine Eager
2374 Shermer Rd
Northbrook, Illinois 60062 6729

Dear Superintendent Eager,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Michael Pillion
242 S Orchard Dr
Park Forest, Illinois 60466 2041

Dear Superintendent Pillion,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Steven Wrobleski
14040 E 1200th Rd
Paris, Illinois 61944 8401

Dear Superintendent Wrobleski,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Michael Cushing
222 N JF Kennedy Dr
Addison, Illinois 60101 6602

Dear Superintendent Cushing,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Brian DeBernardi
28W250 Saint Charles Rd
West Chicago, Illinois 60185 1454

Dear Superintendent DeBernardi,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Brenda Donahue
699 Plainfield Rd
Downers Grove, Illinois 60516 5057

Dear Superintendent Donahue,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Rich Faivre
PO Box 369
Mc Leansboro, Illinois 62859 0369

Dear Superintendent Faivre,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent David Hermann
501 W South St
Annawan, Illinois 61234 9715

Dear Superintendent Hermann,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Daniel Joyce
227 N 4th St
Geneva, Illinois 60134 1307

Dear Superintendent Joyce,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Ryan Linnig
1050 Ivy Hall Ln
Buffalo Grove, Illinois 60089 1333

Dear Superintendent Linnig,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Sandra Malahy
1350 W Hawley St
Mundelein, Illinois 60060 1504

Dear Superintendent Malahy,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Michael Matteson
400 N Lake St
Grayslake, Illinois 60030 1430

Dear Superintendent Matteson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Michael Matteson
50 Lakeview Pkwy Ste 101
Vernon Hills, Illinois 60061 1578

Dear Superintendent Matteson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Eric Misener
315 W 3rd St
Lorant, Illinois 61334 9021

Dear Superintendent Misener,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jodi Moore
455 Elm St
Mt Zion, Illinois 62549 1314

Dear Superintendent Moore,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Lisa Parker
9604 Illinois St
Hebron, Illinois 60034 9618

Dear Superintendent Parker,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jeff Prusator
PO Box 665
Forreston, Illinois 61030 0665

Dear Superintendent Prusator,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Ted Sanders
PO Box 369
Sherrard, Illinois 61281 0369

Dear Superintendent Sanders,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Charles Schneider
501 Hanft St
New Athens, Illinois 62264 1507

Dear Superintendent Schneider,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kristen School
408 S Belleville St
Freeburg, Illinois 62243 1534

Dear Superintendent School,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Matthew Seaton
2465 Amann Dr
Belleville, Illinois 62220 3463

Dear Superintendent Seaton,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Cleve Threadgill
502 W Mulberry St
Georgetown, Illinois 61846 1846

Dear Superintendent Threadgill,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent S Vincent
735 Green Garden Pl
Lockport, Illinois 60441 4935

Dear Superintendent Vincent,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Daniel Coles
1109 N 8th St
Vandalia, Illinois 62471 1240

Dear Superintendent Coles,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Ellen Correll
6248 N Boone School Rd
Poplar Grove, Illinois 61065 8548

Dear Superintendent Correll,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Prentiss Lea
7825 W 103rd St
Palos Hills, Illinois 60465 1676

Dear Superintendent Lea,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jason Lind
12150 S Hamlin Ave
Alsip, Illinois 60803 1218

Dear Superintendent Lind,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent John Price
21899 Torrence Ave
Sauk Village, Illinois 60411 4489

Dear Superintendent Price,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Julie Schmidt
9400 Southwest Hwy
Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453 2372

Dear Superintendent Schmidt,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent W Schumacher
500 S School Dr
Lanark, Illinois 61046 1352

Dear Superintendent Schumacher,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Joy Swoboda
PO Box 3039
Urbana, Illinois 61803 3039

Dear Superintendent Swoboda,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Scott Warren
1701 Charleston Ave
Mattoon, Illinois 61938 3936

Dear Superintendent Warren,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
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While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jenny Wojcik
300 E Wood St
Paris, Illinois 61944

Dear Superintendent Wojcik,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent John Ahlgrim
2806 E 600 North Rd
Strasburg, Illinois 62465 4102

Dear Superintendent Ahlgrim,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Nick Brown
859 W Missouri Ave
Sandoval, Illinois 62882 1031

Dear Superintendent Brown,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Julie Brea
102 S Merritt St
Odin, Illinois 62870 1112

Dear Superintendent Brea,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Chris Clark
600 N Morrow St
Pontiac, Illinois 61764 1451

Dear Superintendent Clark,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Constance Collins
2695 Woodlawn Rd
Lincoln, Illinois 62656 9632

Dear Superintendent Collins,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Eileen Conway
1000 Railer Way
Lincoln, Illinois 62656 3180

Dear Superintendent Conway,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Geoff Deigan
312 E Forest Ave
West Chicago, Illinois 60185 3528

Dear Superintendent Deigan,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Christopher Dignam
1860 63rd St
Downers Grove, Illinois 60516 2471

Dear Superintendent Dignam,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Robert DiVirgilio
7700 Clarendon Hills Rd
Willowbrook, Illinois 60527 2426

Dear Superintendent DiVirgilio,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Heather Friziellie
1000 Forrest St
Benton, Illinois 62812 3337

Dear Superintendent Friziellie,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Robert Gold
306 Virginia Ave
Carterville, Illinois 62918 1239

Dear Superintendent Gold,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Patricia Goodwin
550 S Carbon Hill Rd
Coal City, Illinois 60416 1663

Dear Superintendent Goodwin,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Brian Harris
204 S Hun St
Colchester, Illinois 62326 1129

Dear Superintendent Harris,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Andy Henrikson
PO Box 189
Orion, Illinois 61273 0189

Dear Superintendent Henrikson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Scott Herrmann
648 N Chicago St
Geneseo, Illinois 61254 1118

Dear Superintendent Herrmann,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent John Hutton
PO Box 175
Tamaroa, Illinois 62888 0175

Dear Superintendent Hutton,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Lonny Lemon
121 E Sheridan Pl
Lake Bluff, Illinois 60044

Dear Superintendent Lemon,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Michael Lubelfeld
517 Deerfield Rd
Deerfield, Illinois 60015 4408

Dear Superintendent Lubelfeld,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jay Marino
2 Stevenson Dr
Lincolnshire, Illinois 60069 2824

Dear Superintendent Marino,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jim McKay
541 Chartres St
La Salle, Illinois 61301 2012

Dear Superintendent McKay,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Thomas Moline
PO Box 440
Argenta, Illinois 62501 0440

Dear Superintendent Moline,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kevin Myers
950A 3rd St
Carrollton, Illinois 62016 1506

Dear Superintendent Myers,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent William Newby
30953 Route 111
Palmyra, Illinois 62674 6304

Dear Superintendent Newby,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kaine Osburn
602 Farrish St
Madison, Illinois 62060 1567

Dear Superintendent Osburn,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent John Petzke
609 S Sparta St
Steeleville, Illinois 62288 2130

Dear Superintendent Petzke,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Theresa Plascencia
1335 Franklin Grove Rd
Dixon, Illinois 61021 9257

Dear Superintendent Plascencia,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Keely Roberts
4201 Airport Rd
Peoria, Illinois 61607 2113

Dear Superintendent Roberts,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent William Robertson
8223 W Smithville Rd
Peoria, Illinois 61607 9428

Dear Superintendent Robertson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Christine Sefcik
PO Box 395
Smithton, Illinois 62285 0395

Dear Superintendent Sefcik,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Bhavna Sharma-Lewis
40 Signal Hill Pl
Belleville, Illinois 62223 1644

Dear Superintendent Sharma-Lewis,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Michael Simeck
147 E Palmer St
Greenview, Illinois 62642 1000

Dear Superintendent Simeck,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Michael Simeck
PO Box 202
Petersburg, Illinois 62675 0202

Dear Superintendent Simeck,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jean Sophie
600 N Cedar St
New Berlin, Illinois 62670 4608

Dear Superintendent Sophie,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Mikkel Storaasli
13716 5th St
Pekin, Illinois 61554 9650

Dear Superintendent Storaasli,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Eric Twadell
1705 Richards St
Joliet, Illinois 60433 3127

Dear Superintendent Twadell,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Lori Wilcox
1112 S Wabash Ave Ste 200
Chicago, Illinois 60605 2358

Dear Superintendent Wilcox,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Lynette Zimmer
PO Box 71
Saint Anne, Illinois 60964 0071

Dear Superintendent Zimmer,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Doug Daugherty
100 E Walnut St
Roselle, Illinois 60172 2242

Dear Superintendent Daugherty,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jakie Walker
PO Box 338
Beecher, Illinois 60401 0338

Dear Superintendent Walker,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Stan Adcock
505 N Park St
Liberty, Illinois 62347 1107

Dear Superintendent Adcock,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Margo Empen
620 Greenwood Ave
Glencoe, Illinois 60022 1650

Dear Superintendent Empen,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Lowell Taylor
1 Dornbush Dr
Minonk, Illinois 61760 1363

Dear Superintendent Taylor,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jeffrey Thake
PO Box 580
Washburn, Illinois 61570 0580

Dear Superintendent Thake,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent John Zick
5837 Park Dr Ste 1
Charleston, Illinois 61920 9465

Dear Superintendent Zick,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
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While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Todd Bean
830 Main St
Meredosia, Illinois 62665 7357

Dear Superintendent Bean,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Brian Dukes
1250 Sanders Rd
Northbrook, Illinois 60062 2900

Dear Superintendent Dukes,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jerry Farris
2921 Illinois Rd
Wilmette, Illinois 60091 1103

Dear Superintendent Farris,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Mark Hettmansberger
1200 N Wolf Rd
Berkeley, Illinois 60163 1219

Dear Superintendent Hettmansberger,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jon Kilgore
3400 Rose St
Franklin Park, Illinois 60131 2155

Dear Superintendent Kilgore,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Geoffrey Schoonover
9901 S Kedzie Ave
Evergreen Park, Illinois 60805 3416

Dear Superintendent Schoonover,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jeff Bryan
450 N Third St
Ashley, Illinois 62808 1259

Dear Superintendent Bryan,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Paula Crane
100 E Wall St
Lexington, Illinois 61753 1462

Dear Superintendent Crane,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Richard Jancek
PO Box 190
Dongola, Illinois 62926 0190

Dear Superintendent Jancek,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Richard Jancek
608 S Main St
Anna, Illinois 62906 1247

Dear Superintendent Jancek,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Christopher Maier
1625 Deep Lake Rd
Lake Villa, Illinois 60046 5324

Dear Superintendent Maier,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Ryan McGuckin
535 N 1981st Rd
Tonica, Illinois 61370 9660

Dear Superintendent McGuckin,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Bailey Climer
421 S College Ave
Brownstown, Illinois 62418 1129

Dear Superintendent Climer,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kent Froebe
10150 Dee Rd
Des Plaines, Illinois 60016 1512

Dear Superintendent Froebe,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Robert Bagby
101 E Main St
Damiansville, Illinois 62215 1303

Dear Superintendent Bagby,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Todd Dugan
230 Covington Dr
Bloomington, Illinois 60108 3106

Dear Superintendent Dugan,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Todd Hamm
210 S Adams St
Carthage, Illinois 62321 1420

Dear Superintendent Hamm,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Laura Irwin
4721 Shawnee College Rd
Ullin, Illinois 62992 2201

Dear Superintendent Irwin,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Terry Wisniewski
ISU Campus Box 7100
Normal, Illinois 61790 0001

Dear Superintendent Wisniewski,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Damian Jones
5801 W Cermak Rd
Cicero, Illinois 60804 2102

Dear Superintendent Jones,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kristen Kendrick-Weikle
8601 Roosevelt Rd
Forest Park, Illinois 60130 2532

Dear Superintendent Kendrick-Weikle,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Robert Meadows
14959 Pulaski Rd
Midlothian, Illinois 60445 3436

Dear Superintendent Meadows,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent John Ahlemeyer
720 W Main St
Shelbyville, Illinois 62565 1334

Dear Superintendent Ahlemeyer,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Daniel Brue
280 E Main St
Oakdale, Illinois 62268 3116

Dear Superintendent Brue,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Paul Fregeau
806 N 1st St
Fairfield, Illinois 62837 2458

Dear Superintendent Fregeau,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Travis Roundcount
500 E Glen Ave
Peoria Heights, Illinois 61616 5106

Dear Superintendent Roundcount,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Dan Cox
1050 E Union St
Rockton, Illinois 61072 1628

Dear Superintendent Cox,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Mark Skertich
311 S Water St
Warren, Illinois 61087 9360

Dear Superintendent Skertich,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Joseph Tieman
PO Box 70
Gifford, Illinois 61847 0070

Dear Superintendent Tieman,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Patrick Bowman
3601 State Route 161
Centralia, Illinois 62801 9621

Dear Superintendent Bowman,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Victor Buehler
750 E Gorman St
Nashville, Illinois 62263 2007

Dear Superintendent Buehler,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jay Goble
19189 Bailey St
Marion, Illinois 62959 7355

Dear Superintendent Goble,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Patrick Murphy
PO Box 128
Brussels, Illinois 62013 0128

Dear Superintendent Murphy,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Becky Schuchman
401 S Monroe St
Freeburg, Illinois 62243 1535

Dear Superintendent Schuchman,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Lynda Andre
503 NW Cross St
Mount Sterling, Illinois 62353 1149

Dear Superintendent Andre,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Cullen Cullen
850 Hayes Ave
South Beloit, Illinois 61080 2119

Dear Superintendent Cullen,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Leigh Lewis
2929 W 87th St
Evergreen Park, Illinois 60805 1036

Dear Superintendent Lewis,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Michael Sutton
512 W 1st St
Homer, Illinois 61849 1215

Dear Superintendent Sutton,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Patrick Anderson
1100 E Laurel St
Olney, Illinois 62450 2508

Dear Superintendent Anderson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Warletta Brookins
129 Douglas St
Centralia, Illinois 62801 2129

Dear Superintendent Brookins,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Mark Cappel
245 W Exchange St
Sycamore, Illinois 60178 1495

Dear Superintendent Cappel,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Robert Green
413 Chicago Rd
Newark, Illinois 60541 8900

Dear Superintendent Green,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jim Greenwald
800 S Hale St
Plano, Illinois 60545 2000

Dear Superintendent Greenwald,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jill Griffin
602 Center Pkwy Ste A
Yorkville, Illinois 60560 1499

Dear Superintendent Griffin,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Debra Kreuztrager
700 W North St
Bradley, Illinois 60915 1013

Dear Superintendent Kreuztrager,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
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While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Messina Lenger
300 S Waukegan Rd
Lake Forest, Illinois 60045 2643

Dear Superintendent Lenger,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Virgil Moore
PO Box 200
Niantic, Illinois 62551 0200

Dear Superintendent Moore,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent John Pearson
4716 W Crystal Lake Rd
McHenry, Illinois 60050 5427

Dear Superintendent Pearson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent John Consolino
1702 N State St
Litchfield, Illinois 62056 1114

Dear Superintendent Consolino,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jeffrey Humes
63 Woodside Rd
Riverside, Illinois 60546 1974

Dear Superintendent Humes,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Tim Branon
207 N Johnson St
Kell, Illinois 62853 1637

Dear Superintendent Branon,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Robin Brooks
2100 E Calumet St
Centralia, Illinois 62801 6511

Dear Superintendent Brooks,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Craig Clark
203 N East St
Odell, Illinois 60460 9602

Dear Superintendent Clark,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Brad Detering
1110 S Villa Ave
Villa Park, Illinois 60181 3326

Dear Superintendent Detering,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Leslie Foppe
218 W 13th St
Mount Carmel, Illinois 62863 1243

Dear Superintendent Foppe,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kerry Herdes
301 E 5th Ave
Woodhull, Illinois 61490 9684

Dear Superintendent Herdes,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Chuck Lane
1905 100th St
Monmouth, Illinois 61462 9221

Dear Superintendent Lane,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Christopher McCann
370 N Main St
Leland, Illinois 60531 9400

Dear Superintendent McCann,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Rob Miller
174 Oak St
Seneca, Illinois 61360 9500

Dear Superintendent Miller,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent H Rademacher
444 N 8th St
Rochelle, Illinois 61068 1460

Dear Superintendent Rademacher,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Matt Renaud
6521 W Farmington Rd
Peoria, Illinois 61604 4419

Dear Superintendent Renaud,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Michael Miller
17301 Central Ave
Oak Forest, Illinois 60452 4920

Dear Superintendent Miller,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Bill Wrenn
1500 Sullivan Rd
Aurora, Illinois 60506 1067

Dear Superintendent Wrenn,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent R Plater
201 E Glenwood Dyer Rd
Glenwood, Illinois 60425 1845

Dear Superintendent Plater,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Todd Hellrigel
PO Box 478
Ohio, Illinois 61349 0478

Dear Superintendent Hellrigel,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Mike Ward
1500 S Sangamon St
Crete, Illinois 60417 2831

Dear Superintendent Ward,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jason Hayes
8151 W Lawrence Ave
Norridge, Illinois 60706 3136

Dear Superintendent Hayes,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent William Biggerstaff
1201 Bethel Rd
Mount Vernon, Illinois 62864 7231

Dear Superintendent Biggerstaff,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Patrick Twomey
PO Box 890
Saint Joseph, Illinois 61873 0890

Dear Superintendent Twomey,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kathy Dinger
7414 S Cass Ave
Darien, Illinois 60561 3608

Dear Superintendent Dinger,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Carol Kilver
281 W John Casey Rd
Bourbonnais, Illinois 60914 1392

Dear Superintendent Kilver,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kathy Hinz
424 Des Plaines Ave
Forest Park, Illinois 60130 1718

Dear Superintendent Hinz,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent R Hoffman
9981 Canterbury St
Westchester, Illinois 60154 4424

Dear Superintendent Hoffman,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Steven Olson
18300 Greenbay Ave
Lansing, Illinois 60438 3009

Dear Superintendent Olson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent John Bute
7823 S Ellis Ave
Chicago, Illinois 60619 3213

Dear Superintendent Bute,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
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While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Brian Coleman
75 1250th St
Middletown, Illinois 62666 9734

Dear Superintendent Coleman,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Lea Damisch
543 N Wood Dale Rd
Wood Dale, Illinois 60191 1535

Dear Superintendent Damisch,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Debbie Ehlenburg
15W451 91st St
Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527 6379

Dear Superintendent Ehlenburg,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent David Engelbrecht
203 W Hillside Rd
Naperville, Illinois 60540 6500

Dear Superintendent Engelbrecht,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Brad Hawk
PO Box 216
Malden, Illinois 61337 0216

Dear Superintendent Hawk,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Daniel Johnson
2550 Harnish Dr
Algonquin, Illinois 60102 6870

Dear Superintendent Johnson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Tom Lind
500 Acorn Ln
Mundelein, Illinois 60060 4019

Dear Superintendent Lind,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Tom Lind
28855 N Fremont Center Rd
Mundelein, Illinois 60060 9451

Dear Superintendent Lind,

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Tim Mahaffy
300 S Waukegan Rd
Lake Forest, Illinois 60045 2643

Dear Superintendent Mahaffy,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Ryan McTague
755 Bennett Ave
Oglesby, Illinois 61348 1067

Dear Superintendent McTague,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Michael Moan
400 E Silverspoon Ave
Granville, Illinois 61326 9697

Dear Superintendent Moan,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Cory Tafoya
400 W Pearl St
Tremont, Illinois 61568 8500

Dear Superintendent Tafoya,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jerry Trickett
701 1/2 W Vermilion St
Catlin, Illinois 61817 9781

Dear Superintendent Trickett,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Susan Wings
ISU Campus Box 5300
Normal, Illinois 61790 0001

Dear Superintendent Wings,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Andrew Wise
15601 US Highway 150
Paris, Illinois 61944 6071

Dear Superintendent Wise,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Mark Daniel
200 N Maple St
Itasca, Illinois 60143 1722

Dear Superintendent Daniel,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Guy Gradert
PO Box 459
South Wilmington, Illinois 60474 0459

Dear Superintendent Gradert,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent David Mouser
101 W Cerro Gordo St
Decatur, Illinois 62523 1001

Dear Superintendent Mouser,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Barry Reilly
101 12th Ave
Rock Falls, Illinois 61071 1023

Dear Superintendent Reilly,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Dwight Stricklin
PO Box 430
South Pekin, Illinois 61564 0430

Dear Superintendent Stricklin,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Lisa Taylor
1421 Spring Bay Rd
East Peoria, Illinois 61611 9762

Dear Superintendent Taylor,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent R Tipsord
615 E Orange St
Hoopeston, Illinois 60942 1855

Dear Superintendent Tipsord,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Matthew Brue
PO Box 27
Okawville, Illinois 62271 0027

Dear Superintendent Brue,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Ryan Heavner
PO Box 800
DePue, Illinois 61322 0800

Dear Superintendent Heavner,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Scott Laird
401 W Latimer St
Abingdon, Illinois 61410 1227

Dear Superintendent Laird,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Scott Petrie
714 Middle St
Prairie Du Rocher, Illinois 62277 2136

Dear Superintendent Petrie,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Brian Charron
PO Box 130
Effingham, Illinois 62401 0130

Dear Superintendent Charron,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Eric Frankford
201 E Lafayette St
Geff, Illinois 62842 1001

Dear Superintendent Frankford,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Gina Segobiano
211 W Mill St
Millstadt, Illinois 62260 1147

Dear Superintendent Segobiano,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Scott Doerr
1200 S Dunton Ave
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005 3111

Dear Superintendent Doerr,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Aaron Hopper
PO Box 220
Campbell Hill, Illinois 62916 0220

Dear Superintendent Hopper,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Debbie Poffinbarger
PO Box 76
Steward, Illinois 60553 0076

Dear Superintendent Poffinbarger,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent E Powell
11 E Hawley St
Amboy, Illinois 61310 1430

Dear Superintendent Powell,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Dustin Day
580 N 1st Bank Dr
Palatine, Illinois 60067 8110

Dear Superintendent Day,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Andy Stremlau
PO Box 229
Mahomet, Illinois 61853 0229

Dear Superintendent Stremlau,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Steve Eisenhauer
130 W Park Ave
Wheaton, Illinois 60189 6460

Dear Superintendent Eisenhauer,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Christiane Pennell
816 E Grant Hwy
Marengo, Illinois 60152 3400

Dear Superintendent Pennell,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Steve Ptacek
100 S Union Ave
Polo, Illinois 61064 1724

Dear Superintendent Ptacek,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Thad Walker
20100 S Spruce Dr
Frankfort, Illinois 60423 7099

Dear Superintendent Walker,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kent Stauder
1010 S Washington St
Manito, Illinois 61546 9474

Dear Superintendent Stauder,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Ted Walk
11244 Willow Crest Ln
Mokena, Illinois 60448 1334

Dear Superintendent Walk,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Phillip Caposey
100 E Martin St
Edinburg, Illinois 62531 9713

Dear Superintendent Caposey,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jason Harper
7700 Gross Point Rd
Skokie, Illinois 60077 2614

Dear Superintendent Harper,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent James Hammack
2461 N State Highway 96
Nauvoo, Illinois 62354 2200

Dear Superintendent Hammack,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Thomas Mahoney
884 W Nippersink Rd
Round Lake, Illinois 60073 3701

Dear Superintendent Mahoney,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Todd Prusator
206 S 10th St
Oregon, Illinois 61061 1711

Dear Superintendent Prusator,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Christopher Rademacher
520 5th Ave
Erie, Illinois 61250 9439

Dear Superintendent Rademacher,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Curtis Rheingans
6000 S Adams St
Bartonville, Illinois 61607 2580

Dear Superintendent Rheingans,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Joseph Schwartz
400 Ashland Ave
Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208 2802

Dear Superintendent Schwartz,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Sheri Smith
810 4th St
Pawnee, Illinois 62558 9680

Dear Superintendent Smith,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Greg Stott
51 Yates Rd
Marquette Heights, Illinois 61554 1152

Dear Superintendent Stott,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Matt Zilm
PO Box 107
Grand Chain, Illinois 62941 0107

Dear Superintendent Zilm,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Roger Alvey
PO Box 200
Mendon, Illinois 62351 0200

Dear Superintendent Alvey,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent David Black
512 S Madison St
Pittsfield, Illinois 62363 1960

Dear Superintendent Black,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Allan Gresham
7634 E Prairie Rd
Skokie, Illinois 60076 3758

Dear Superintendent Gresham,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Eric Heath
9760 Soreng Ave
Schiller Park, Illinois 60176 2105

Dear Superintendent Heath,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Allen Johnson
7450 Wolf Rd
Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527 7714

Dear Superintendent Johnson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Dennis Mcnamara
15000 Laramie Ave
Oak Forest, Illinois 60452 1325

Dear Superintendent Mcnamara,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Chad Allison
PO Box 40
Oblong, Illinois 62449 0040

Dear Superintendent Allison,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Loren Baele
PO Box 400
Germantown, Illinois 62245 0400

Dear Superintendent Baele,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Susanne Carrescia
501 W Market St
Somonauk, Illinois 60552 9794

Dear Superintendent Carrescia,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Zac Chatterton
801 S Franklin St
Dwight, Illinois 60420 1339

Dear Superintendent Chatterton,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat
255 W Vermont St
Villa Park, Illinois 60181 1943

Dear Superintendent Desmoulin-Kherat,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Timothy Dotson
596 Crescent Blvd
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137 4200

Dear Superintendent Dotson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Shannon Duling
157 W Washington St
West Chicago, Illinois 60185 2802

Dear Superintendent Duling,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Lan Eberle
6301 Springside Ave
Downers Grove, Illinois 60516 2488

Dear Superintendent Eberle,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Randall Merker
201 Chicago St
Marseilles, Illinois 61341 2058

Dear Superintendent Merker,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Darrick Reiley
9415 Hoover Rd
Rock Falls, Illinois 61071 9350

Dear Superintendent Reiley,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Robert Richardson
3717 W Malone St
Peoria, Illinois 61605 1263

Dear Superintendent Richardson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Chad Wagner
10482 Nebraska St
Frankfort, Illinois 60423 2235

Dear Superintendent Wagner,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Keith Hagene
6950 N East Prairie Rd
Lincolnwood, Illinois 60712 2520

Dear Superintendent Hagene,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Phillip Hamil
1750 S Roselle Rd
Palatine, Illinois 60067 7302

Dear Superintendent Hamil,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Gary Kelly
PO Box 304
Milford, Illinois 60953 0304

Dear Superintendent Kelly,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Tim OLeary
300 4th St
Venice, Illinois 62090 1015

Dear Superintendent OLeary,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jerry Travelstead
PO Box 37
Armstrong, Illinois 61812 0037

Dear Superintendent Travelstead,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
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While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Sheila Greenwood
7040 Laramie Ave
Skokie, Illinois 60077 3443

Dear Superintendent Greenwood,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Amanda Geary
95 Tunnel Hill Rd
Tunnel Hill, Illinois 62972 3200

Dear Superintendent Geary,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Brett Robinson
1300 W Sycamore St
Chillicothe, Illinois 61523 1373

Dear Superintendent Robinson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Victor Zimmerman
18160 W Gages Lake Rd
Grayslake, Illinois 60030 1819

Dear Superintendent Zimmerman,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jessica Funk
51 N Main St
Ewing, Illinois 62836 1437

Dear Superintendent Funk,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Janet Gladu
1700 W Cherry St
Marion, Illinois 62959 1212

Dear Superintendent Gladu,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Paula Hawley
307 Chestnut St
Dalzell, Illinois 61320 9717

Dear Superintendent Hawley,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Donald Peebles
4213 US Highway 12
Richmond, Illinois 60071 9732

Dear Superintendent Peebles,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Charles Bleyer
14975 E Bakerville Rd
Mount Vernon, Illinois 62864 7100

Dear Superintendent Bleyer,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Spencer Byrd
506 S Shabbona Rd
Shabbona, Illinois 60550 9784

Dear Superintendent Byrd,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Doug Edwards
590 S Medinah Rd
Roselle, Illinois 60172 1978

Dear Superintendent Edwards,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Landon Sommer
PO Box 1010
Riverton, Illinois 62561 1010

Dear Superintendent Sommer,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent B Carlson
901 S 4th St
DeKalb, Illinois 60115 4411

Dear Superintendent Carlson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Stephanie Mulholland
1910 W 170th St
Hazel Crest, Illinois 60429 1363

Dear Superintendent Mulholland,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Karyn Albers
PO Box 542
Clay City, Illinois 62824 0542

Dear Superintendent Albers,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Larry Beattie
21462 N Richview Ln
Centralia, Illinois 62801 8520

Dear Superintendent Beattie,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Brian Pasero
6809 McCullom Lake Rd
Wonder Lake, Illinois 60097 9546

Dear Superintendent Pasero,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Gabrielle Schwemmer
10110 Old Lincoln Trl
Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208 2422

Dear Superintendent Schwemmer,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jonathan Tallman
907 Locust St
Delavan, Illinois 61734 9327

Dear Superintendent Tallman,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Larry Bussard
4930 S Cottage Grove Ave
Chicago, Illinois 60615 2616

Dear Superintendent Bussard,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kristin Humphries
260 Madison St
Oak Park, Illinois 60302 4112

Dear Superintendent Humphries,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jay Morrow
16001 Lincoln Ave
Harvey, Illinois 60426 4916

Dear Superintendent Morrow,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Alan Boucher
300 N Central St
Woodlawn, Illinois 62898 1136

Dear Superintendent Boucher,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Ronald Jacobs
301 S Green St
Anna, Illinois 62906 1126

Dear Superintendent Jacobs,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Lanty McGuire
400 W Main St
Grand Ridge, Illinois 61325 9687

Dear Superintendent McGuire,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Scott McKissick
1800 Church St
Peru, Illinois 61354 1615

Dear Superintendent McKissick,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Perry Miller
1463 N 33rd Rd
Ottawa, Illinois 61350 9622

Dear Superintendent Miller,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Michael Oberhaus
401 Chaffer Ave
Roxana, Illinois 62084 1125

Dear Superintendent Oberhaus,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Andy Richmond
5137 W Cisna Rd
Bartonville, Illinois 61607 1434

Dear Superintendent Richmond,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Terri Vandewiele
420 N Raynor Ave
Joliet, Illinois 60435 6065

Dear Superintendent Vandewiele,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Darcy Benway
PO Box 277
Pleasant Hill, Illinois 62366 0277

Dear Superintendent Benway,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Peggy Burke
PO Box 13
Morrisonville, Illinois 62546 0013

Dear Superintendent Burke,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kevin Cogdill
1200 N Walnut St
Saint Elmo, Illinois 62458 1368

Dear Superintendent Cogdill,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Ronald Ferrell
542 Abbotsford Rd
Kenilworth, Illinois 60043 1161

Dear Superintendent Ferrell,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Craig Fiegel
615 Locust Rd
Wilmette, Illinois 60091 2237

Dear Superintendent Fiegel,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jonathan Green
6901 W Oakton St
Niles, Illinois 60714 3024

Dear Superintendent Green,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Carrie Hruby
3724 Prairie Ave
Brookfield, Illinois 60513 1612

Dear Superintendent Hruby,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Matthew Klosterman
6021 S 74th Ave
Summit, Illinois 60501 1500

Dear Superintendent Klosterman,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Matthew Stines
801 S 5th St
Fisher, Illinois 61843 9522

Dear Superintendent Stines,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Ryan Wamser
502 E Delaware Ave
Casey, Illinois 62420 1915

Dear Superintendent Wamser,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Julie Brown
1200 N Broadway Ave
Salem, Illinois 62881 4204

Dear Superintendent Brown,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kelly Carpenter
720 S Wells St
Sandwich, Illinois 60548 2449

Dear Superintendent Carpenter,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Arthur Culver
210 S Church Rd
Bensenville, Illinois 60106 2303

Dear Superintendent Culver,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Tomi Diefenbach
2801 York Rd
Oak Brook, Illinois 60523 2334

Dear Superintendent Diefenbach,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jeff Dosier
5500 S Grant St
Hinsdale, Illinois 60521 4578

Dear Superintendent Dosier,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
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While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Dawn Elser
133 S Grant St
Westmont, Illinois 60559 1907

Dear Superintendent Elser,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Gregory Frerking
300 W King St
Fairfield, Illinois 62837 1710

Dear Superintendent Frerking,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent RDane Gale
900 N Cherry St
West Frankfort, Illinois 62896 1670

Dear Superintendent Gale,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Mark Halwachs
20 W Walnut St
Canton, Illinois 61520 2526

Dear Superintendent Halwachs,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Scott Harres
PO Box 215
Augusta, Illinois 62311 0215

Dear Superintendent Harres,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Brian Karraker
PO Box 158
Ashkum, Illinois 60911 0158

Dear Superintendent Karraker,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Patrick Keeney
1411 W Lafayette St
Watseka, Illinois 60970 7655

Dear Superintendent Keeney,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Janice Kunz
PO Box 1206
Galesburg, Illinois 61402 1206

Dear Superintendent Kunz,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Pam Leonard
1381 Lake St
Libertyville, Illinois 60048 1729

Dear Superintendent Leonard,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Tom Rude
909 N Town Ave
Princeville, Illinois 61559 7536

Dear Superintendent Rude,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Arthur Ryan
4280 4th Ave
East Moline, Illinois 61244 1924

Dear Superintendent Ryan,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent F Sauer
14110 134th Ave W
Taylor Ridge, Illinois 61284 9719

Dear Superintendent Sauer,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Ryan Hobbs
2400 S 18th Ave
Broadview, Illinois 60155 3930

Dear Superintendent Hobbs,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Byce Jerrell
1750 W Plainfield Rd
La Grange Highlands, Illinois 60525 3727

Dear Superintendent Jerrell,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Shain Crank
903 E 800 North Rd
Stanford, Illinois 61774 9612

Dear Superintendent Crank,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Mike Gauch
201 S Ferne Clyffe Rd
Goreville, Illinois 62939 2698

Dear Superintendent Gauch,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Gary Alexander
2110 Highway 94 N
Camp Point, Illinois 62320 2516

Dear Superintendent Alexander,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Thomas Bertrand
PO Box 439
Griggsville, Illinois 62340 0439

Dear Superintendent Bertrand,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jennifer Gill
6200 Lake St
Morton Grove, Illinois 60053 2416

Dear Superintendent Gill,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jilinda Larson
16100 W 127th St
Lemont, Illinois 60439 7462

Dear Superintendent Larson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Darren Root
18601 Torrence Ave
Lansing, Illinois 60438 2830

Dear Superintendent Root,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Douglas Wood
14040 E 1200th Rd
Paris, Illinois 61944 8401

Dear Superintendent Wood,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Adam Ehrman
115 55th St
Clarendon Hills, Illinois 60514 1593

Dear Superintendent Ehrman,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Tip Reedy
602 4th Ave
Rock Falls, Illinois 61071 1229

Dear Superintendent Reedy,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Matt Runge
9611 S Hanna City Glasford Rd
Glasford, Illinois 61533 9506

Dear Superintendent Runge,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Lance Thurman
350 N Chicago St
Rossville, Illinois 60963 9700

Dear Superintendent Thurman,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Beau Fretueg
728 W North St
Grayville, Illinois 62844 1338

Dear Superintendent Fretueg,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent David Roberts
465 E 170th St
South Holland, Illinois 60473 3400

Dear Superintendent Roberts,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kevin Blankenship
20941 E Divide Rd
Bluford, Illinois 62814 2402

Dear Superintendent Blankenship,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent DeAnn Heck
10401 Grand Ave
Franklin Park, Illinois 60131 2208

Dear Superintendent Heck,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Erik Hovel
8940 W 24th St
North Riverside, Illinois 60546 1158

Dear Superintendent Hovel,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Michele Lindenmeyer
11900 S Kostner Ave
Alsip, Illinois 60803 2307

Dear Superintendent Lindenmeyer,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Denise Bence
1118 Fairfield Rd
Mount Vernon, Illinois 62864 5726

Dear Superintendent Bence,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Darrell Gordon
1013 North St
Mazon, Illinois 60444 6236

Dear Superintendent Gordon,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Chad Gripp
8000 E Prairie Rd
Skokie, Illinois 60076 3402

Dear Superintendent Gripp,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jerry Klooster
240 Warren Ave
Kankakee, Illinois 60901 4319

Dear Superintendent Klooster,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jose Torres
PO Box 27
Royal, Illinois 61871 0027

Dear Superintendent Torres,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jeffrey Walkington
PO Box 50
Paxton, Illinois 60957 0050

Dear Superintendent Walkington,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Fritson Coffman
304 8th St
Lincoln, Illinois 62656 2658

Dear Superintendent Coffman,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Shannon Jasmon
355 E Chicago St
Elgin, Illinois 60120 6543

Dear Superintendent Jasmon,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent R Kerrick
84 N Oak St
Manteno, Illinois 60950 1522

Dear Superintendent Kerrick,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Susan Kovacs
100 W Dixie Hwy
Saint Anne, Illinois 60964 7276

Dear Superintendent Kovacs,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Branson Lawrence
25775 W IL Route 134
Ingleside, Illinois 60041 9587

Dear Superintendent Lawrence,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Therese Manderino
34090 N Almond Rd
Gurnee, Illinois 60031 5310

Dear Superintendent Manderino,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Ty Wolf
1212 W Springfield Ave
Urbana, Illinois 61801 2909

Dear Superintendent Wolf,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Ty Wolf
1500 Sullivan Rd
Aurora, Illinois 60506 1067

Dear Superintendent Wolf,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Thomas Chiles
PO Box 607
Teutopolis, Illinois 62467 0607

Dear Superintendent Chiles,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Douglas DeSchepper
150 W Madison St
Lombard, Illinois 60148 3317

Dear Superintendent DeSchepper,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Robert Prusator
1401 Flagg Rd
Rochelle, Illinois 61068 6400

Dear Superintendent Prusator,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Michael Schiffman
200 W Schuetz St
Lebanon, Illinois 62254 1570

Dear Superintendent Schiffman,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Tim Thill
PO Box 109
Metamora, Illinois 61548 0109

Dear Superintendent Thill,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jeffrey Hill
7776 Lake St
River Forest, Illinois 60305 1735

Dear Superintendent Hill,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Bill Link
11218 S Ridgeland Ave
Worth, Illinois 60482 1970

Dear Superintendent Link,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Chad Allaman
100 S Main St
Palestine, Illinois 62451 1244

Dear Superintendent Allaman,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Bradley Bennett
2710 North St
Mount Vernon, Illinois 62864 2317

Dear Superintendent Bennett,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Andrew Brooks
PO Box 189
Kinmundy, Illinois 62854 0189

Dear Superintendent Brooks,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Scott Dearman
5540 Arlington Dr E
Hanover Park, Illinois 60133 5569

Dear Superintendent Dearman,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kyle Freeman
408 E Mill St
Wayne City, Illinois 62895 0868

Dear Superintendent Freeman,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Matt Gordon
54 White Oak Dr
Morris, Illinois 60450 3614

Dear Superintendent Gordon,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Marjorie Greuter
127 S Canal St
Newark, Illinois 60541 9776

Dear Superintendent Greuter,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Dale Heidbreder
103 S Euclid Ave
Princeton, Illinois 61356 1843

Dear Superintendent Heidbreder,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jeff Hinman
20023 Diswood Rd
Tamm, Illinois 62988 3234

Dear Superintendent Hinman,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Tony Ingold
6067 State Route 154
Pinckneyville, Illinois 62274 3414

Dear Superintendent Ingold,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Patreak Minasian
2300 W Main St
Mendota, Illinois 61342 1061

Dear Superintendent Minasian,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Seth Mingus
1806 Guiles Ave
Mendota, Illinois 61342 1204

Dear Superintendent Mingus,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Danielle Owens
777 N Wood River Ave
Wood River, Illinois 62095 1227

Dear Superintendent Owens,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Byron Sondgeroth
800 S Walnut St
Williamsville, Illinois 62693 9729

Dear Superintendent Sondgeroth,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Tony Whiston
209U Wildcat Ct
Wilmington, Illinois 60481 4500

Dear Superintendent Whiston,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Edwin Shoemate
100 N School Rd
East Dubuque, Illinois 61025 1174

Dear Superintendent Shoemate,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Brent Boren
11101 N Wells Bypass Rd
Mount Vernon, Illinois 62864 6588

Dear Superintendent Boren,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Shelly Clover-Hill
119 N Garden St
Mount Pulaski, Illinois 62548 1285

Dear Superintendent Clover-Hill,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Charles Goforth
500 N 10th St
Herrin, Illinois 62948 3335

Dear Superintendent Goforth,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Paige Maginel
29067 W Grass Lake Rd
Spring Grove, Illinois 60081 9494

Dear Superintendent Maginel,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Keith Reinhardt
3314 W Richwoods Blvd
Peoria, Illinois 61604 1027

Dear Superintendent Reinhardt,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Rob Wright
100 W Randolph St 6-229
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Dear Superintendent Wright,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Phillip Cox
5410 Pine Ln
Roscoe, Illinois 61073 7313

Dear Superintendent Cox,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Larry Maynard
15100 S 94th Ave
Orland Park, Illinois 60462 3291

Dear Superintendent Maynard,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jean Neal
200 N Wolcott St
Thornton, Illinois 60476 1254

Dear Superintendent Neal,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Scott Watson
310 Teeter St
Oakland, Illinois 61943 5304

Dear Superintendent Watson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Alicia Geddis
PO Box 40
Buncombe, Illinois 62912 0040

Dear Superintendent Geddis,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Suzzette Hesser
439 Willard St
Kewanee, Illinois 61443 3717

Dear Superintendent Hesser,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Crystal Johnson
PO Box 396
Burlington, Illinois 60109 0396

Dear Superintendent Johnson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Gary Lewis
28593 N Bradley Rd
Lake Forest, Illinois 60045 1154

Dear Superintendent Lewis,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Seth Miller
3197 E 28th Rd
Marseilles, Illinois 61341 9567

Dear Superintendent Miller,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent William Mulvaney
304 E IL Route 10
De Land, Illinois 61839 7020

Dear Superintendent Mulvaney,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent William Mulvaney
PO Box 79
Cerro Gordo, Illinois 61818 0079

Dear Superintendent Mulvaney,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Brent Rademacher
304 Main St
Lindenwood, Illinois 61049 7700

Dear Superintendent Rademacher,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Scott Watson
15732 S Howard St
Plainfield, Illinois 60544 2399

Dear Superintendent Watson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Robert Bowser
801 W Wall St
Mulberry Grove, Illinois 62262 1049

Dear Superintendent Bowser,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Tim Buss
6820 S Washtenaw Ave
Chicago, Illinois 60629 1826

Dear Superintendent Buss,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Edward Fletcher
2123 S Arlington Heights Rd
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005 4105

Dear Superintendent Fletcher,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jeffrey Whitsitt
255 Comet Dr
Braidwood, Illinois 60408 2029

Dear Superintendent Whitsitt,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Scott Fuhrhop
1500 McDaniel Ave
Evanston, Illinois 60201 3976

Dear Superintendent Fuhrhop,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Charles Schulte
4601 Sauk Trl
Richton Park, Illinois 60471 1470

Dear Superintendent Schulte,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Michael Brink
1220 Kinoka Rd
Patoka, Illinois 62875 1300

Dear Superintendent Brink,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent W Hawkins
232 E Cleveland St
Ladd, Illinois 61329 9741

Dear Superintendent Hawkins,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Brian Hodge
311 Hurst Rd
De Soto, Illinois 62924 1228

Dear Superintendent Hodge,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Charles Peterson
302 Bellefontaine Dr
Waterloo, Illinois 62298 1790

Dear Superintendent Peterson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Julie Harrelson
3801 W Lake Ave
Glenview, Illinois 60026 1292

Dear Superintendent Harrelson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent David Mills
6611 171st St
Tinley Park, Illinois 60477 3514

Dear Superintendent Mills,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jill Barger
233 W South St
Dix, Illinois 62830 1403

Dear Superintendent Barger,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Myron Caudle
PO Box 128
Kempton, Illinois 60946 0128

Dear Superintendent Caudle,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jill Fulkerson
1 Bearcat Dr
Christopher, Illinois 62822 1099

Dear Superintendent Fulkerson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent David Reavis
643 Genesee Ave
Morrison, Illinois 61270 2907

Dear Superintendent Reavis,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Diana Zurliene
PO Box 582
Byron, Illinois 61010 0582

Dear Superintendent Zurliene,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Sarah Emery
1401 Greenwood Rd
Glenview, Illinois 60026 1511

Dear Superintendent Emery,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Brad Lee
1105 N Hunt Club Rd
Gurnee, Illinois 60031 2418

Dear Superintendent Lee,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Matt Vollman
708 N State St
Lockport, Illinois 60441 2227

Dear Superintendent Vollman,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Dan Arickx
500 E 15th St
Beardstown, Illinois 62618 2052

Dear Superintendent Arickx,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Chad Colmone
702 W 6th St
Ramsey, Illinois 62080 0010

Dear Superintendent Colmone,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent K Cox
6605 Prairie Hill Rd
South Beloit, Illinois 61080 9530

Dear Superintendent Cox,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Laurie Heston
4600 N Oak Park Ave
Harwood Heights, Illinois 60706 4823

Dear Superintendent Heston,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Alex Moore
848 E 170th St
South Holland, Illinois 60473 3413

Dear Superintendent Moore,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Tad Everett
5175 Highway 13
Junction, Illinois 62954 2101

Dear Superintendent Everett,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Darryl Hogue
925 S Giant City Rd
Carbondale, Illinois 62902 5056

Dear Superintendent Hogue,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Christopher Lensing
1700 Oplaine Rd
Libertyville, Illinois 60048 1541

Dear Superintendent Lensing,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Ron McCord
202 W Lincoln Ave
Streator, Illinois 61364 2102

Dear Superintendent McCord,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Scott Vance
715 Meadow Ave
Rockdale, Illinois 60436 2405

Dear Superintendent Vance,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Todd Koehl
8345 Archer Ave
Willow Springs, Illinois 60480 1402

Dear Superintendent Koehl,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Margaret Manville
1440 W Vermont Ave
Calumet Park, Illinois 60827 6328

Dear Superintendent Manville,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent James Mitchem
114 W 144th St
Riverdale, Illinois 60827 2703

Dear Superintendent Mitchem,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Russell Ragon
910 Woodlawn Ave
Ford Heights, Illinois 60411 2299

Dear Superintendent Ragon,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Theresa Rouse
7329 W 63rd St
Summit, Illinois 60501 1817

Dear Superintendent Rouse,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Peter Sullivan
PO Box 720
Tolono, Illinois 61880 0720

Dear Superintendent Sullivan,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent R Tingley
200 S Sheldon St
Rantoul, Illinois 61866 2431

Dear Superintendent Tingley,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Todd Wernet
1496 Illinois Route 121
Toledo, Illinois 62468 4214

Dear Superintendent Wernet,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Maura Zinni
1424 Minnesota Ave
Windsor, Illinois 61957 1010

Dear Superintendent Zinni,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Lane Abrell
633 County Highway 22
Cowden, Illinois 62422 4104

Dear Superintendent Abrell,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Timothy Baldermann
1500 Case St
Centralia, Illinois 62801 5050

Dear Superintendent Baldermann,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Omar Castillo
5800 E 3000 North Rd
Streator, Illinois 61364 8881

Dear Superintendent Castillo,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Diane Cepela
1100 E Indiana Ave
Pontiac, Illinois 61764 1204

Dear Superintendent Cepela,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kara Coglianesi
1300 1500th St
Lincoln, Illinois 62656 5127

Dear Superintendent Coglianesi,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Lori Gehrke
4580 Mount Pisgah Rd
Cypress, Illinois 62923 2139

Dear Superintendent Gehrke,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Donna Gray
26655 W Eames St
Channahon, Illinois 60410 5380

Dear Superintendent Gray,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Nicholas Henkle
700 1st St
Colona, Illinois 61241 9028

Dear Superintendent Henkle,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Pamela Kibbons
PO Box 549
Grant Park, Illinois 60940 0549

Dear Superintendent Kibbons,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Cheryl McCarthy
PO Box 107
Serena, Illinois 60549 0107

Dear Superintendent McCarthy,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Jeffrey McCartney
PO Box 539
Earlville, Illinois 60518 0539

Dear Superintendent McCartney,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Mark Mitchell
901 Hilltop Dr
Sparland, Illinois 61565 9792

Dear Superintendent Mitchell,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Ronald Patton
401 N Division St
Harvard, Illinois 60033 3031

Dear Superintendent Patton,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Cathie Pezanoski
1940 Swanwick St
Chester, Illinois 62233 1127

Dear Superintendent Pezanoski,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Barb Rains
1110 3rd St
Fulton, Illinois 61252 1767

Dear Superintendent Rains,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Joseph Salmieri
2101 6th Ave
Rock Island, Illinois 61201 8909

Dear Superintendent Salmieri,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Andy Siegfried
600 Louisa Ave
Dupo, Illinois 62239 1469

Dear Superintendent Siegfried,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Joseph Simpkins
324 W Charles St
Buffalo, Illinois 62515 6267

Dear Superintendent Simpkins,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Steve Stein
200 Campus Ave
East Peoria, Illinois 61611 1601

Dear Superintendent Stein,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Matthew Swick
401 E Fifth St
Mackinaw, Illinois 61755 7623

Dear Superintendent Swick,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kathy Clark
300 N 7th St
Cornell, Illinois 61319 9282

Dear Superintendent Clark,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Derek Hutchins
PO Box 130
Elkville, Illinois 62932 0130

Dear Superintendent Hutchins,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Keith Liddell
841 W End Ct
Vernon Hills, Illinois 60061 1376

Dear Superintendent Liddell,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Keith Oates
525 N 3rd St
Girard, Illinois 62640 1157

Dear Superintendent Oates,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Terry Ryker
3451 Morton Dr
East Moline, Illinois 61244 1921

Dear Superintendent Ryker,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Scott Fisher
701 W Gregory St
Mt Prospect, Illinois 60056 2220

Dear Superintendent Fisher,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Kurt Alberstett
PO Box C
Louisville, Illinois 62858 0903

Dear Superintendent Alberstett,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent William Faller
PO Box 218
Elizabethtown, Illinois 62931 0218

Dear Superintendent Faller,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Keli Freedlund
2030 County Road 1020 N
Fairfield, Illinois 62837 2869

Dear Superintendent Freedlund,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Lynn Gibson
PO Box 530
Metropolis, Illinois 62960 0530

Dear Superintendent Gibson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Wes Heiar
506 E Dover Rd
Princeton, Illinois 61356 9552

Dear Superintendent Heiar,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Ehren Jarrett
3365 State Hwy 3 N
Wolf Lake, Illinois 62998

Dear Superintendent Jarrett,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Julie Morris
PO Box 347
Macon, Illinois 62544 0347

Dear Superintendent Morris,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent John Schwuchow
111 Warrior Way
Belleville, Illinois 62221 5117

Dear Superintendent Schwuchow,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Glenn Terry
97 W 5th St
El Paso, Illinois 61738 1049

Dear Superintendent Terry,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent John Ulferts
1661 Cherry Hill Rd
Joliet, Illinois 60433 8508

Dear Superintendent Ulferts,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Daniel Oakley
410 157th St
Calumet City, Illinois 60409 4704

Dear Superintendent Oakley,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Sean OLaughlin
1255 Superior Ave
Calumet City, Illinois 60409 5703

Dear Superintendent OLaughlin,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Robert Bardwell
804 W Knob St
Waltonville, Illinois 62894 2812

Dear Superintendent Bardwell,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Brian Kurz
PO Box 69
Oneida, Illinois 61467 0069

Dear Superintendent Kurz,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Michelle Lee
1201 N Sheridan Rd
Waukegan, Illinois 60085 2081

Dear Superintendent Lee,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
- 3) Have parents of your middle and high school students raised this issue with your principals or teachers?
- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Dan Mair
555 N Main St
Wauconda, Illinois 60084 1229

Dear Superintendent Mair,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
- 2) Have your middle or high schools had to impose new rules, regulations, or practices in order to better contain or monitor the use of e-cigarettes among students?
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- 4) Have your middle or high schools taken any additional steps to educate students about the harms of tobacco use, as well as the addictive nature of nicotine found in e-cigarette flavorings? Please describe any specific sessions, events, or initiatives.
- 5) Do your middle and high school principals or teachers have any idea where their under-18 students are purchasing e-cigarettes? Are there convenient stores, or vaping stores, that sell these products near high schools?
- 6) Is there anything that your middle or high school principals and teachers think Congress could be doing at the federal level to help in your efforts to protect a new generation of children from becoming addicted to nicotine?

While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Marty Payne
110 Franks Rd
Marengo, Illinois 60152 3425

Dear Superintendent Payne,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

Between 2011 and 2015, the use of e-cigarettes among high school students increased more than ten-fold—from 1.5 percent to 16 percent. While e-cigarette use by high school students declined slightly to 11.3 percent in 2016, e-cigarettes remain the most popular form of tobacco use among youth. This is especially concerning given that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine found that there is “substantial evidence” that e-cigarette use increases the risk that youth will try cigarettes, and “conclusive evidence” that most e-cigarettes contain and emit numerous potentially toxic substances.

E-cigarette use among teenagers has become so prevalent that a number of high schools administrators across the country have been forced to take dramatic action in response. Some schools have banned USB drives from their campuses, as it is often difficult to differentiate them from certain vaping devices. Some schools have placed limitations on the number of students that can use the bathroom at one time, as young people congregate in bathroom stalls to secretly vape. Some schools have been forced to install additional security cameras in an effort to crack down on student use of e-cigarettes.

To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

- 1) Have your middle or high schools noticed an increase of e-cigarette use by their students over the past few years? If so, what are the most popular devices and/or accompanying flavors?
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While it remains an open question whether e-cigarettes can play a role in helping adult smokers to quit cigarettes, there is certainly no role for them to play in our nation's schools—and yet that is exactly where they are turning up. We appreciate any information you and your high schools may be able to provide on this important subject. Please send your responses electronically to [Jessica McNiece@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov) and [Josie Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov](mailto:Josie_Villanueva@duckworth.senate.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Rohn Peterson
PO Box 396
Coulterville, Illinois 62237 0396

Dear Superintendent Peterson,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

From aggressively marketing cigarette and tobacco products near schools, to shamelessly using cartoon characters to entice children, and producing their tobacco products in kid-friendly candy and fruit flavors, it is no secret that big tobacco companies will stop at nothing to hook young people on their addictive and dangerous products. The good news is that, thanks to enhanced prevention and awareness policies, cigarette smoking among high school students is at record lows—dropping from 28 percent in 2000 to 8 percent in 2016. The bad news is that, much to our dismay, these gains are being jeopardized because of non-cigarette tobacco products—especially cigars and e-cigarettes with kid-appealing flavors.

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To help combat this alarming public health scourge, we have pressed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expeditiously regulate these e-cigarette products and remove kid-friendly flavors from the market. We have also supported federal awareness efforts to educate the public about tobacco harms.

We write today to understand what your district is experiencing with respect to student use of e-cigarettes. We would greatly appreciate answers to the following questions by June 29, 2018 (and please feel free to ask your schools to provide as much additional context or anecdotal information as they see fit):

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

May 25, 2018

Superintendent Duane Schupp
309 Hartman Ln
O Fallon, Illinois 62269 1725

Dear Superintendent Schupp,

Over the past few years, there has been an alarming increase in vaping or electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) use among high school students nationwide. In Illinois, 27 percent of high school students now use these products. We write today to request information regarding what our Illinois middle and high schools are experiencing with respect to student use of these dangerous and addictive nicotine products.

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Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator