



**TESTIMONY OF  
HARTFORD HEALTHCARE  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
Monday, March 4, 2019**

**HB 7200, An Act Prohibiting The Sale Of Cigarettes, Tobacco Products,  
Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems And Vapor Products To  
Persons Under Age Twenty-One**

Hartford HealthCare appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony in support of **HB 7200, An Act Prohibiting The Sale Of Cigarettes, Tobacco Products, Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems And Vapor Products To Persons Under Age Twenty-One.**

Among other provisions, HB 7200 would raise the statewide legal age to buy tobacco – including vaping and Electronic Nicotine Delivery products – from 18 to 21.

The best way to reduce harm caused by smoking is to abstain from smoking altogether or, at a minimum, delay the start of smoking. Every year, over 1000 young people in our state become new daily smokers. Many of these kids start smoking when older high school students share cigarettes with them, which is made possible by their legal access to tobacco products. By raising the tobacco sale age, we're taking steps to cut off young students' access to tobacco products and a lifetime of addiction and associated health problems.

Six states, including Maine and Massachusetts have raised the sale age for tobacco to 21 along with 350 cities and towns across the country. We believe this proposal will go a long way in helping prevent a new generation from suffering addiction and tobacco related diseases. We urge you to support HB 7200.

Thank you for consideration of our position. For additional information, contact Kim Harrison at 860-263-4137.