

*A resolution to approve the Vaping Educational and Student Health Initiative (VESHI) to address the growing public health concern of vaping and e-cigarette use.*

Presented on March 2nd, 2023.

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**WHEREAS**, vaping and e-cigarette use, or the use of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), has emerged as a critical public health issue over the years, with increasing evidence of harmful substances found in e-cigarette aerosol, such as the flavoring diacetyl, which is linked to lung disease, cancer-causing chemicals, metals such as tin and lead, and volatile organic compounds<sup>1</sup>; **AND**

**WHEREAS**, ingesting nicotine is associated with higher rates of depression, an increase in ADHD symptoms, disruptions in learning, memory, and attention, and increased vulnerability towards addiction to other drugs<sup>2</sup>, **AND**

**WHEREAS**, e-cigarette use is specifically targeted towards low-income communities, as well as communities of color, which include marginalized and oppressed communities, low-income communities, LGBT+ individuals, women, and children, and especially those with preexisting mental health issues, such as members of the military<sup>3</sup>; **AND**

**WHEREAS**, Wayne State University serves students primarily from the tri-county area, including Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland county, as well as students from Detroit, where the

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "About Electronic Cigarettes (E-Cigarettes)," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, November 10, 2022. [https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic\\_information/e-cigarettes/about-e-cigarettes.html](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/about-e-cigarettes.html)

<sup>2</sup> Truth Initiative, "Nicotine and the Young Brain," Truth Initiative, June 8, 2022, <https://truthinitiative.org/research-resources/harmful-effects-tobacco/nicotine-and-young-brain>

<sup>3</sup> Truth Initiative, "Targeted Communities," Truth Initiative, (n.d.). <https://truthinitiative.org/research-resources/topic/targeted-communities>

poverty rate is 31.8%<sup>4</sup>, in addition to priding itself on being affordable to low-income students, Wayne State University must recognize that 72% of smokers are from low-income communities<sup>5</sup>, and these communities are disproportionately more likely to have retailers with more tobacco marketing and advertising than upper-income communities; **AND**

**WHEREAS**, companies market ENDS as a stress-reliever despite the consistent use of e-cigarettes resulting in the worsening of stress, anxiety and irritability, and ceasing e-cigarette use has been linked to less stress, anxiety, and depression, as well as improved mood and increased feelings of self-control,<sup>6</sup> which are connected to improvements in mental health and wellbeing among youth; **AND**

**WHEREAS**, quitting e-cigarette use or vaping use is possible with a plan, the right resources, as well as understanding the reason for smoking cessation, staying committed to quitting, preparing for withdrawals and cravings, or talking to a counselor,<sup>7</sup> all of which will enable an individual to take control of their lives and become empowered in their decision to quit; **AND**

**WHEREAS**, it is important to promote a safe and healthy learning environment for students, faculty and staff. It is our mission to provide educational resources that are easily accessible to the Wayne State University community; **AND**

**WHEREAS**, Wayne State has a responsibility to promote and protect the health and well-being of its students, faculty and staff; **AND**

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<sup>4</sup> United States Census Bureau, "QuickFacts, Detroit City, Michigan," United States Census Bureau, 2021. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/detroitcitymichigan/PST120221>

<sup>5</sup> Truth Initiative, "Why are 72% of smokers from lower-income communities?", Truth Initiative, January 24, 2018. <https://truthinitiative.org/research-resources/targeted-communities/why-are-72-smokers-lower-income-communities>

<sup>6</sup> Truth Initiative, "How quitting nicotine can improve mental health," Truth Initiative, November 5, 2021. <https://truthinitiative.org/research-resources/quitting-smoking-vaping/how-quitting-nicotine-can-improve-mental-health>

<sup>7</sup> Smoke Free, "How to quit vaping," Smoke Free, (n.d.). <https://teen.smokefree.gov/quit-vaping/how-to-quit-vaping>

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Vaping Education and Student Health Initiative, in collaboration with Wayne State University departments, faculty, and administration, will develop an updated smoking policy, which includes providing educational materials, resources, and evidence-based programs to help individuals quit smoking if they wish to do so, learn more about e-cigarettes and their health effects, and know where to find support for smoking cessation if necessary; **AND**

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Wayne State University Student Senate approves and supports the continuation of the increased awareness efforts of on-campus nicotine educational resources and services available for students, faculty, and staff to utilize applicably;

**AND FINALLY, BE IT ORDERED** that the Wayne State University Student Senate will circulate this request to all relevant outlets, including approval of a diagnostic survey in coordination with the Office of the Provost.

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*President*

*Vice President*