



Please Vote “Yes” on HB16-1150

County Authority to Regulate Tobacco Possession and Use by Minors Sponsor: Rep. Conti

In 2008, the Colorado General Assembly passed the Teen Tobacco Use Prevention Act. The Act empowers local governments to restrict the sale of tobacco products to minors and is a very important legislative tool for protecting our young people. The act has been amended since its initial passage, but methods of tobacco (and marijuana) usage have changed since the act was amended and additional clarifications are needed to permit counties to keep pace with these changes in teen smoking habits.

At the heart of the issue is the increasing use of e-cigarettes and vaporizers (or “vapes” as they are often called) by teens. The use of these e-cigarettes and vapes has become a serious problem in many of our schools, especially since they are more discrete than cigarettes and can be used to smoke marijuana as well as a variety of flavored tobacco products. The definition of “tobacco delivery devices” has been amended in statute to include these e-cigarettes and vapes, but **not** in the sections of statute that outline county regulatory authority to adopt and enforce ordinances regarding possession and use by minors. The issue is further complicated by the fact that county legal authority is scattered across several different areas of the statutes, and these laws and authorities do not always work in a seamless fashion.

HB16-1150 better enables counties to protect their young people by truing up these various statutes and allowing counties to adopt and enforce ordinances prohibiting minor possession and use of tobacco and tobacco delivery devices.

CCI asks for your support of HB16-1150

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