

STATE OF OHIO
Executive Department

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Columbus

VETO MESSAGE

**STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE VETO
OF SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 513**

January 5, 2023

Pursuant to Article II, Section 16, of the Ohio Constitution, which states that the Governor may disapprove of any bill, I hereby disapprove of Substitute House Bill 513 which would prohibit local governments from enacting laws to prevent the sale of flavored tobacco. I set forth the following reasons for this Veto as letting this bill become law is not in the best interest of Ohioans.

Medical experts have known for decades that tobacco products harm the health of individuals. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), every year nationwide there are approximately 480,000 deaths caused by cigarette smoking.

Increased tobacco usage is also known as a cause of increased health care costs, including health care costs paid for by the taxpayers of the State of Ohio. The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids reports that Medicaid costs caused by smoking in Ohio alone amounts to \$1.85 billion annually. Nationwide, the CDC reports that annually over \$300 billion in health care spending and productivity losses are attributable to cigarette smoking.

A local government that bans flavored tobacco products, that are often marketed specifically to appeal to youth, may be doing so to discourage youth tobacco use. Nearly 81% of youth ages 12 to 17 who had ever used a tobacco product reported that the first product they used was flavored.¹ A recent prevalence study on the use of tobacco products among middle and high school students showed that of those who reported they were currently using a tobacco product, 72.8% of high school students and 59.6% of middle school students reported using flavored products. At least two-thirds of youth tobacco users report using tobacco products “because they come in flavors I like.”² Flavors, including menthol, help mask the harshness of tobacco making it easier for kids to become addicted.

¹ Ambrose BK, et al. Flavored Tobacco Product Use Among US Youth Aged 12-17 Years, 2013-2014. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, published online October 26, 2015.

² Ambrose BK, Day HR, Rostron B, et al. Flavored Tobacco Product Use Among US Youth Aged 12-17 Years, 2013-2014. *Jama*. 2015;314(17):1871-1873.

For the reasons set forth above, this veto is in the public interest.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of the State of Ohio to be affixed at Columbus this 5th day of January, Two Thousand Twenty-Three.

Mike DeWine
Mike DeWine, Governor

This will acknowledge the receipt of a copy of this veto message of Substitute House Bill 513 that was disapproved by Governor Mike DeWine on January 5, 2023.

NICHOLAS EIPPERT - ASST. CHIEF
Name and Title of Officer LEGAL COUNSEL

1/5/23 2:10 PM
Date and Time of Receipt

[Signature]