

# MICHIGAN E-LIQUID FLAVOR BAN

Governor Gretchen Whitmer has circumvented both the courts and the legislature to issue an “emergency decree” banning the sale of flavored e-liquids to anyone in the state of Michigan. The ban will commence in October and remain in force for six months--*at least*.

Her first justification is that children might be enticed by flavors and interesting packaging (even though sales to minors are already against the law). Her second stated reason is that hospitalization rates from vaping are high enough to justify emergency measures. But are they?

There are 209,128,094 adults in the United States. One out of every 20 of them vape, according to Reuters. This means 10,456,405 (about 10.5 million) U.S. adults are vapers. Of those 10.5 million, 156 have been hospitalized "after vaping." **That's one hundred and fifty-six, or 0.00001% of vapers.**

Of those 0.00001%, it has not been disclosed how long after vaping they were hospitalized. It has not been stated how frequently they vaped, or for how long, or even whether they had vaped recently. It hasn't been stated how old these patients were or how serious their conditions were--or even what their specific conditions were. The CDC has even admitted there is no known causation between vaping and the hospitalizations. This is the "emergency" that Whitmer has based her ban on.

The pharmaceutical industry, one of the state's biggest lobbies, produces “nicotine replacement therapies.” The quit smoking industry is a multi-billion dollar industry; in fact, the same entities behind vaping bans were behind Michigan's bar and restaurant smoking ban, which was merely an effort to boost sales of NRTs. The explosion of e-cigs was unexpected, and has decimated sales of pills, patches, and gum.

NRTs can work to quit smoking short-term, but have almost no long-term efficacy. Numerous studies show after six weeks, they're actually less effective than placebo!

State legislators receive massive "campaign donations" from the pharmaceutical industry, and ABC cancer charities actually receive more "donations" from pharmaceutical and chemical companies than from individual donors. That funding puts vaping squarely in everyone's cross hairs.

Even colleges and hospitals receive large sums from the pharmaceutical industry. This is why "smoking bans" on campuses almost always include chewing tobacco and vaping--but not NRTs. **A smoking/vaping ban generally amounts to a "non-pharmaceutical nicotine ban."**

# MI. E-LIQUID FLAVOR BAN: ACT NOW!

- 1). Join Ban the Ban Michigan on facebook.** To receive important notifications and updates regarding this and other bans, click "follow" or "following" on the main fb page and make sure "see first" is selected. [facebook.com/btbmi](https://www.facebook.com/btbmi)
- 2). Don't accidentally support the other side.** Smoking bans originate from the same pharmaceutically-funded entities as vaping bans. The same pharmaceutically-funded junk science used to create the perception of secondhand smoke danger to justify Michigan's bar/restaurant smoking ban is now being conducted against vaping. "Secondhand vaping" is already being discussed as a threat to public health, showing that with enough junk science, you can "prove" anything you want. Inform the people you know that 'secondhand smoke' and 'secondhand vaping' are both based on junk science.
- 3). DO NOT PURCHASE JUUL PRODUCTS!** Purportedly due to financial issues, Juul stopped making flavored e-liquids late in 2018, and they are now supporting this statewide flavor ban. Conveniently, they recently shut down their social media accounts.
- 4). BOYCOTT PHARMACEUTICAL NRTs: GUM, PATCHES, PILLS, ETC!**  
Pharmaceutical lobbying is a major source of bans such as this and is targeted to boost sales of these products.
- 5). Contact your state Representative.** At the very least, email them. It's quick, easy, and they DO listen. Reps generally represent geographically small areas, and as a rule of thumb they consider everyone who contacts them as the opinion of 20 residents. Find your state representative's contact info at <https://openstates.org/mi/legislators/> Use the search bar toward the right and enter your ZIP. Next, select the Rep in the LOWER HOUSE to get their contact info.
- 6). Write to your newspaper.** Yes, it may seem like "nobody reads the paper anymore," but that's not the case. Quaint as it may seem, letters to the editor can bring a lot of attention to the issue. Stress the pharmaceutical connection to help educate the public.
- 7). Volunteer at micompco.com** The Michigan Compromise Coalition, micompco, is a statewide coalition of Michigan groups and business owners looking for someone to act as a spokesperson to the press. This does not have to be a business owner. The position may include anything from giving the OK for newspaper quotes to speaking with reporters over the phone. Once micompco has a spokesperson, they can launch an investigation into the connection between Michigan politicians and health organizations and the pharmaceutical lobby. They are also always looking for people willing to make phone calls to other businesses to join their coalition.