

Statement from Regent Fred DuVal on University Vaping Policies

Regent Fred DuVal issued this statement:

“The alarming outbreak of vaping-related illness and death in the United States is a crisis escalating out of control. I commend our university presidents for recognizing tobacco and vaping as a public health hazard and for implementing policies that prohibit the use of tobacco and vaping on university campuses.

I believe this crisis warrants a uniform and comprehensive board-level policy prohibiting not only the use but also the sale of tobacco and vaping products on university property. Further, beyond policy, I believe the board has an important role to sound an alarm and use our position to drive more awareness of the risks to our students.

We have all seen the horrible news accounts. The Centers for Disease Control recently issued a report with the startling statistics (https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease.html):

- At least 19 people have now died from vaping-related illnesses.
- The CDC has received reports of more than 1,000 lung injury cases.
- Approximately 80 percent of patients are under 35 years old and 16 percent of patients are under 18 years old.

The CDC is strongly warning everyone to stop using vaping products. We now know that these tobacco