



May 2, 2023

Re: SF2995

Chair Wiklund, Chair Liebling and Committee Members:

The Association for Nonsmokers - MN, ANSR, writes in strong support for the inclusion of two provisions in SF2995: language to dedicate JUUL lawsuit settlement dollars to youth prevention and cessation services for addicted nicotine users (Senate Article 4, Sections 3 and 35 and House Article 3, Sections 3 and 70); and language to reduce tobacco cessation treatment barriers for those on Medical Assistance and Minnesota Care (House Article 1, sections 23 and 31).

ANSR is at the forefront in the struggle to prevent youth addiction. Youth addiction is the direct result of cleverly designed and marketed products. Young people are lured into using vapes and they fail to understand the profoundly addictive nature of nicotine. Recently a teenager, when asked to write down how vapes or cigarettes had impacted his life he wrote, *"I'm addicted to vaping. I've been kicked out of sports. People look at me differently. I lost friends and I want to quit but it is so hard."*

This young person and others who have been tricked into addiction deserve help. These two provisions offer that help. Kindly support their inclusion in the final bill



Jeanne Weigum
President