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House of Representatives

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Opening Statement Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy Hearing “An Epidemic Continues: Youth Vaping in America” June 23, 2021

Our nation’s youth are experiencing a public health crisis.

According to [data](#) collected by FDA and CDC, more than 3 million high school students and half a million middle school students use e-cigarettes. And according to the Office of the Surgeon General, an estimated 5.6 million children in this country will die early from a smoking-related illness if cigarette use continues at its current rate. That’s 1 in every 13 young people alive today.

These numbers are horrifying. They threaten years of progress in reducing youth tobacco use, and the e-cigarette industry is to blame.

Companies like JUUL and Puff Barr knowingly and deliberately pushed tobacco products onto our nation’s youth. They deployed deceptive, dishonest tactics to get young people hooked on their products. They even went so far as to promote their products directly in our nation’s schools.

E-cigarette manufactures have acted with a complete disregard for the health of young people across this country. Their actions are appalling, and the federal government can no longer allow this industry to foster youth addiction as a long-term marketing strategy for its deadly products.

Our nation’s regulatory agencies must take immediate action to turn the tide on this crisis. FDA can build on the steps it’s taken so far by prohibiting the sale of remaining flavored products, capping nicotine levels in e-cigarettes, and pulling illegal products—like those sold by Puff Bar—off the market. I strongly urge the agency to take these commonsense steps.

Let me conclude by commending the leadership of Chairman Krishnamoorthi and the Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy.

The Subcommittee’s investigation has brought to light the dangerous practices of e-cigarette manufacturers across the country, and it has underscored the urgent need for the federal government to act on America’s youth vaping epidemic.

Thank you for your leadership, Chairman Krishnamoorthi. I look forward to hearing the testimony from our esteemed witnesses today, and I yield back.

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