

# Nevada Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



8550 W Charleston Blvd  
Ste 102-365  
Las Vegas, NV 89117

NevadaAAP.org

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2021 - 2022**

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Cell: 508-685-0918

## AB59 Neutral Public Comment

Tuesday, 16 February 2021

My name is Leann McAllister. I am the Executive Director of the Nevada Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (Nevada AAP). Today I offer neutral testimony on behalf of the Nevada AAP for AB59.

The Nevada AAP supports prohibiting the sale of e-cigarettes to minors younger than 21 years of age but sees no benefit in prosecuting minors who fall for the marketing tactics of tobacco companies. Our focus is on protecting children from penalties that should be reserved for the people who profit from these sales, not their victims.

Further, we feel any Tobacco 21 laws are hollow without mandates to vigorously enforce such a law with penalties that are significant enough to discourage retailers from failing to follow the law.

In addition, the Nevada AAP believes that candy and fruit flavored e-cigarettes and tobacco products, which encourage youth smoking initiation, should be banned altogether at the state level.

The Nevada AAP currently has 267 members, most of whom are board-certified pediatricians, both primary and specialty care; members also include pediatric nurse practitioners, physician assistants, pediatric residents, and medical students, all of whom live and work in Nevada and have dedicated their professional lives to the health of all children. Our current Board of Directors includes Dr. Jose Cucalon Calderon from Renown Children's Hospital who leads our chapter's efforts in educating all Nevadans as to the dangers of e-cigarettes. He and many additional chapter members are available to Nevada legislators to answer any questions you have about e-cigarette use or any health concern that impacts children, adolescents, and young adults in Nevada.

The Nevada Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics is incorporated in the state of Nevada.