Testimony of **[Insert Your Department Name]** to the

House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Proponent for HB 2563 • **[Insert Current Date Here]**

Chairman Barker and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to supply written testimony in support of House Bill 2563 which raises the purchase and possession age of tobacco products from 18 years of age to 21 years of age, prohibits cigarette vending machines, and prohibits flavored vaping products. Local health departments are concerned with the health and well-being of all Kansans, and the impact of vaping and tobacco products are an area of serious concern around the state.

HB 2563 continues public health’s long-standing efforts to decrease the use of tobacco and vaping products by increasing the restrictions regarding age of use, controlling unsupervised access (as is the case with vending machines), and decreasing the attractiveness of vaping to youth by limiting the flavoring options associated with such products. We have long known the risks of cigarette use and other tobacco products and have seen the recent headlines associated with health impacts tied to vaping. Addictive drugs such as nicotine are challenging to combat but bills like HB 2563 go a long way to minimizing the cost (both economic and health) to its use. We at the health department think HB 2563 makes some very important steps to improving the overall health of our communities.

It is for these reasons that the **[Insert Your Department Name]** supports HB 2563 and asks that you recommend it favorably.

Respectfully,

**[Signature Here]**

**[Name Here, Title]**

**[Department Name Here]**