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**TO:** James B. Milliken, Chancellor, U. T. System Administration

**FROM:** The U. T. System Student Advisory Council

**DATE:** April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**RE:** Recommendation on Electronic Inhalation Devices and Cessation Resources

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We are writing to express our overwhelming support for the U. T. System's ongoing efforts to reduce the harms to students, faculty, and staff caused by tobacco use. Most notably, U. T. System's establishment of tobacco-free campuses is commendable and appreciated. Of no less importance is U. T. System's commitment to providing accessible smoking-cessation resources for those wishing to quit. We encourage the Chancellor and Board of Regents to continue their support for these policies and programs.

In light of recent literature regarding the increasing prevalence of electronic inhalation devices and severe associated health risks, we recommend additional emphasis in U. T. System policies on vaping. The use of devices such as electronic cigarettes containing nicotine is already prohibited on U. T. System campuses under HOP 3.6.3 Smoke and Tobacco Free Workplace. However, room for improvement exists in enforcement of this policy and in communicating that "Smoke-free UT" includes a ban of such devices. Furthermore, given the dramatic rise of vaping (both of nicotine and THC-containing products) among U.S. adolescents, we recommend outreach to U. T. students, faculty, and staff regarding both the dangers posed by vaping and the resources available to assist in vaping cessation.

We believe that with further clarification and identification of these prohibited devices under the HOP 3.6.3 policy, U. T. System can create a healthier work and study space for all members of the U. T. System. Additionally, direct identification of educational and cessation resources for electronic inhalation devices seems timely in the current climate. With these in mind, we ask you to consider a review of this HOP policy and encourage clarity of language regarding all electronic inhalation devices and implementation of cessation resources.

Thank you for your consideration.