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**For Immediate Release**

**For More Information Contact: 813-238-4034**

### **Florida Makes Moves to Ban the sale of E-cigarettes to Minors**

(St. Petersburg, FL) Earlier this week the Florida Senate unanimously passed a bill that would ban the sale of electronic cigarettes to minors. The companion House bill has one more committee stop before a floor vote. .

E-cigarettes are a nicotine alternative that vaporizes nicotine and are sold in convenience stores and smoke shops. The FDA is looking into marketing and product regulations, but to date there are no regulations on the books at the federal or state level. Unlike tobacco products there are no age restrictions on who can buy these products.

Marketed as a safe alternative to smoking, they are selling in flavors appealing to our youth like cherry, strawberry, mint tea, chocolate, vanilla and sweet mint. Some merchants are selling the devices as a safe way to smoke marijuana undetected in public. Because these devices are not regulated and are not listed as drug paraphernalia, they are stocked in prime selling space at the front of convenience stores, next to the candy and gum.

“Successful tobacco prevention strategies has resulted a decline in youth tobacco use, however electronic cigarettes are very attractive to youth and come in flavors like root beer, orange, even piña colada,” says Brittany McNaughton from the Hillsborough County Anti-Drug Alliance, a member coalition of the Florida Coalition Alliance. “Many teens and young adults are using these devises as a way to use marijuana unnoticed in public.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported in 2011 that e-cigarette use across the U.S. had gone from 10% to 21% among people who also smoked real cigarettes. The percentage of all adults who had tried e-cigarettes had grown to 6% nationwide, double the number from 2010.

If you would like to set up an interview about this issue with someone from the Florida Coalition Alliance or the Hillsborough Anti-Drug Alliance, please contact 813-238-4034

Florida Coalition Alliance’s mission is to build upon the foundations of community coalitions in Florida by providing opportunities for training, networking, communication, collaboration, legislative advocacy, sharing of resources and resource development.

For more information, please visit <http://flcoalitionalliance.org>

Hillsborough County Anti-Drug Alliance’s mission is to build a community where youth and families are safe, healthy and free of substance abuse and addiction.

For more information, please visit <http://hcada.com/>