

# Advocacy Report

## Action Alert!

**E-cigarette smoking is the single largest cause of preventable death in the United States, killing about 480,000 people a year. A federal survey found that e-cigarette use among teenagers has surpassed the use of traditional cigarettes even as the number of teens smoking has continued to decline. However, from 2013 to 2014, the use of e-cigarettes among youth tripled. Hookah use doubled. And high school boys now smoke cigars at the same rate as cigarettes. With flavors like bubblegum, gummy bear, and cotton candy, it's not surprising that more youth are turning to these tobacco products and starting down a dangerous and addictive path.**

And with no federal oversight, the situation could get worse.

That is why today Ohio PTA is joining the American Heart Association along with its other partner groups and telling the White House to finally release rules giving the Food and Drug Administration authority over ALL tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, hookah and cigars.

Will you join us? Contact the President today!

Take action now by clicking on this link:

<https://yourethecure.org/aha/advocacy/composeletters.aspx?AlertID=37254>

From The Ohio PTA Voice, November 2015 (on-line newsletter):

Ohio PTA's mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging, empowering, and being an advocate for all children and families. Since its founding in 1901, Ohio PTA has a long history of being a strong advocate for every child. Ohio PTA promotes legislation that protects all children and youth and that meets their education, health and welfare needs. *In 2015, Ohio PTA's main focus area is to support a safe and effective education environment adequate for all children.*

Our legislative focus areas include:

- Opposing the use of public funds for non-public schools, vouchers and tax-credits
- Supporting charter schools that are governed by local school boards, open to all students, do not divert monies from public schools, comply with federal and state laws governing public schools and do not charge tuition or fees not charged by public schools
- Supporting increased physical activities during the school day for K-12 students
- Supporting strong courses of study that will include Arts Education in the core requirements for a high quality comprehensive public education
- Supporting privacy of student data (in regards to military recruiters)
- Supporting and promoting the Licensure Code of Professional Conduct for Ohio Educators

The almost 65,000 members of Ohio PTA through our 485 local units and 41 councils, advocate to our decision makers to provide our school districts with the resources to prepare our students to be college and career- ready and to assume the responsibilities of citizenship. If you are interested in becoming involved in state- level advocacy by monitoring legislation and policies for education and other children's and family issues, please consider joining Ohio PTA's Advocacy Committee by contacting the Ohio PTA office at 614.781.6344 or email [advocacy@ohiopta](mailto:advocacy@ohiopta). Tandra Rutledge  
Director of Advocacy