

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 26, 2019

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chairman, Committee on Health,  
Education, Labor & Pensions  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member, Committee on Health,  
Education, Labor & Pensions  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

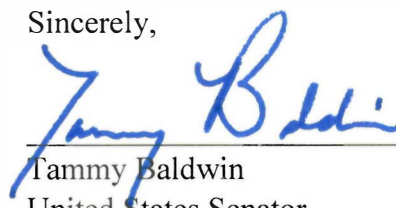
I write to respectfully request a hearing regarding the outbreak of severe lung disease connected to vaping.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to report an increasing number of cases of this illness, and the death toll is rising. As of September 19, CDC had confirmed seven deaths, and more than 500 cases in 38 states and one territory, yet questions remain regarding the specific cause of the outbreak. In addition, I find it deeply troubling that more than 15 percent of these cases were in children under 18 years old, especially as the most recent numbers from the National Tobacco Youth Survey indicate that 27.5 percent of teenagers had vaped in the past 30 days.

Wisconsin has been on the frontlines of this outbreak. Physicians at the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin were the first to publicly identify this mystery illness, and officials at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) were the first in the nation to issue a warning to the public. I am incredibly proud of the work that authorities in my home state have done to promote a coordinated response to this outbreak, and I believe that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions can learn important information by hearing directly from state and local health entities working on the ground.

The Committee has a responsibility to gain a better understanding of how to support officials on the ground, learn about the specific causes of the outbreak, determine how we can combat future outbreaks, and prevent children from using these products. A hearing is a perfect way to gather this important information. Thank you again for your consideration of this request, and I look forward to working with you to address this public health concern.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator