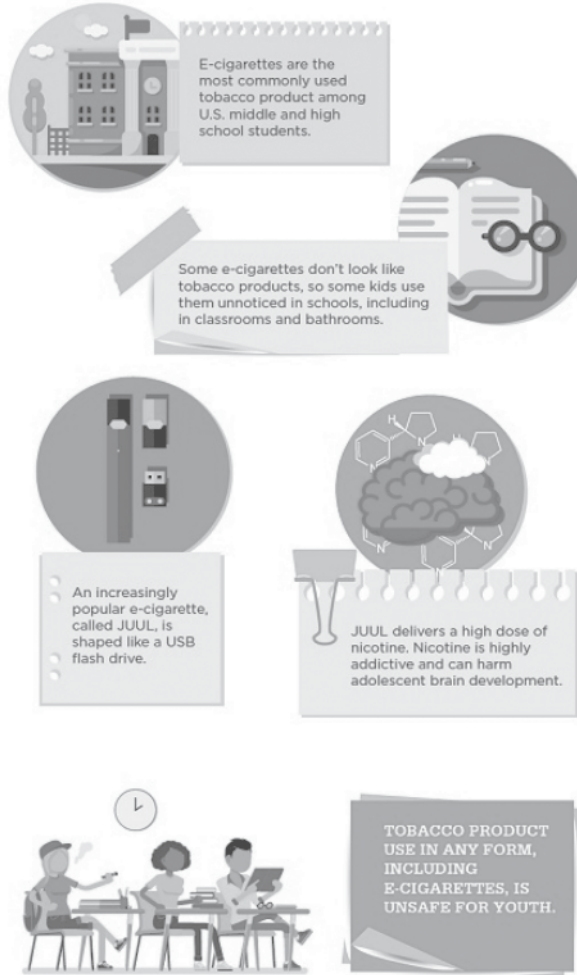


RAISING TOBACCO USE AGE TO 21



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - US Dept. of Health & Human Services

STATE REPRESENTATIVE Cristin McCarthy Vahey

SERVING FAIRFIELD

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

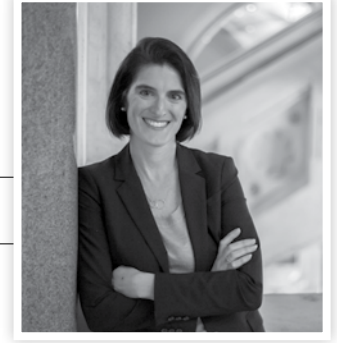
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

CRISTIN MCCARTHY VAHEY

TOBACCO ~~eighteen~~ twenty-one

Tobacco remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in our country. Connecticut has now joined 14 states, including Massachusetts and New Jersey, and over 475 cities and towns nationwide that have increased the smoking age to 21. Tobacco 21 legislation also awaits the Governor's signature in New York. Our new CT law:

- Raises the minimum age for purchasing any tobacco, e-cigarette, or vaping products to 21
- Requires a signature and proof of age for any online purchases and delivery of tobacco products
- Bans smoking on the grounds of schools and child care centers

I was proud to lead the fight for Tobacco 21 in Connecticut and thank all of our partners, including the Fairfield advocates who helped make this happen. I will continue working to ensure the health and safety of our state's youth. Check out my Tobacco 21 video at www.bit.ly/2HTsoka.

Cristin McCarthy Vahey



Cristin and fellow T21 legislative leaders upon its passage in the House

U.S. SURGEON GENERAL CALLS YOUTH E-CIGARETTE USE AND VAPING AN EPIDEMIC: "Know the risks. Take action. Protect our kids."



Cristin at a bipartisan press conference on the Tobacco 21 legislation

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SMOKING & VAPING FACTS

- 95 percent of adults who smoke start before they turn 21
- The current rate of use of electronic cigarettes more than doubled between 2015 and 2017
- 1,300 children in CT become daily smokers each year
- 1,100 kids in CT under 18 will try tobacco for the first time this year
- 56,000 CT youths alive today will lose their lives prematurely due to tobacco use (US Surgeon General estimate)
- Tobacco use costs CT \$2.03 billion in health care expenses annually

For more information visit:

- Tobacco Prevention and Enforcement Program: 877-331-1999
- American Lung Assoc.: lung.org
- Cancer Action Network: fightcancer.org