

Opening Statement of Congressman Doug Collins  
Full Committee Markup of H.R. 3942 the "Preventing Online Sales  
of E-Cigarettes to Children Act"

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I support this important legislation and advise my colleagues to do the same.

Today, anyone who purchases alcohol or tobacco at a physical retailer must show proof of age if they appear to be younger than a certain age. Online alcohol retailers must also verify a purchaser's age to comply with state and federal law. However, online e-cigarette retailers are exempted from verifying the age of their customers.

As a result, 1 in 5 high school students are using e-cigarettes even though they are underage. Many of these students are having e-cigarettes delivered right to their door due to the lack of age verification requirements. This hurts kids while giving a competitive advantage to retailers without physical locations.

The Preventing Online Sales of E-Cigarettes to Children Act would require age verification upon delivery of online purchases of e-cigarette and vapor products. It limits the underage purchase of e-cigarettes and ensures that online and physical retailers are playing on the same field, following the same rules.

The underage purchase of e-cigarettes through online retailers is clearly a loophole worthy of Congress's attention. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to help protect the next generation.

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