

Update on H430 S318 “Solly’s Law” Tobacco 21/Tobacco Retail Licensing

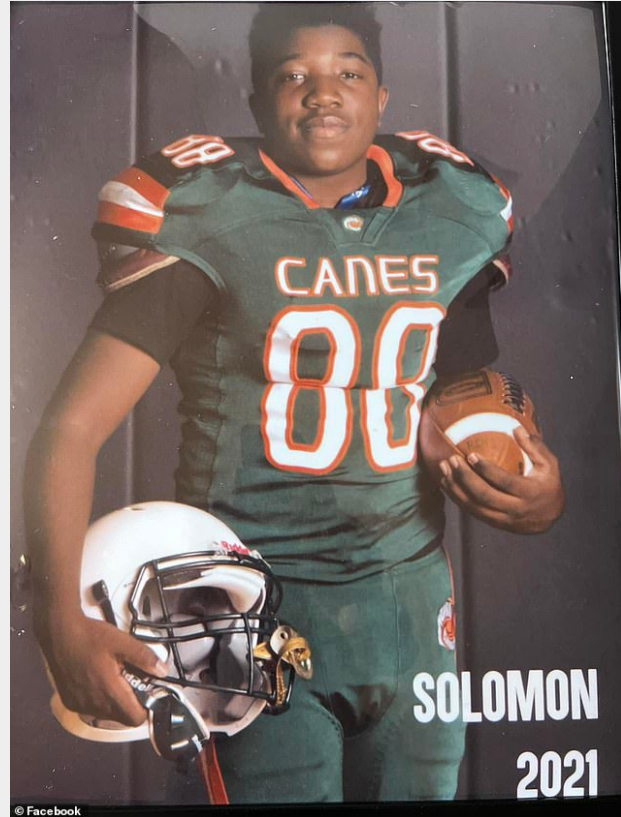


Peg O’Connell and Meg Molloy, Tobacco 21 Coalition
Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force
October 7, 2025

Vaping has serious consequences

Tragic death just months after a
vape-induced cough

X-ray showed lung damage caused
by vaping



15-year-old “Solly”
Solomon Wynn from Wilmington

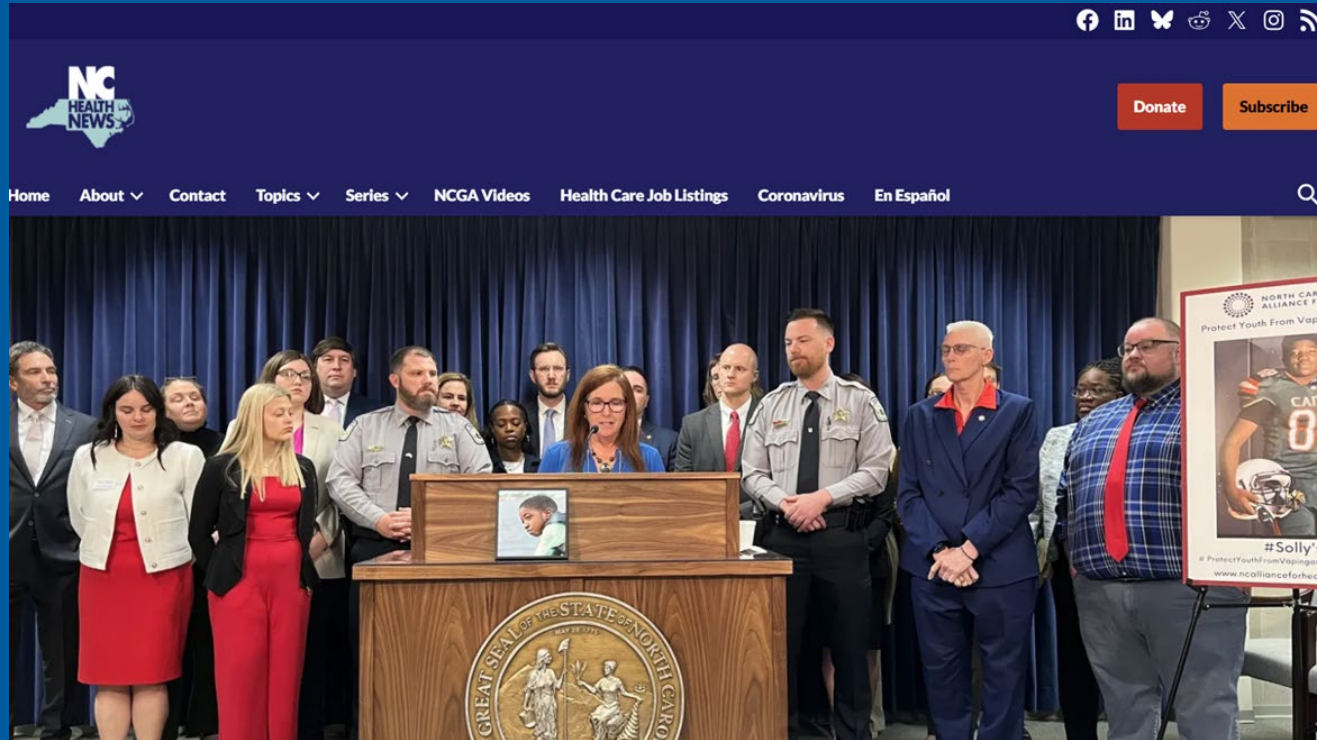
Solly's Law will fill gaps in NC law

- Raise the legal age for sale of tobacco products in NC from 18 to 21 to align with federal law (2019 Congress passed law to raise federal sales age to 21)
- Establish a license for tobacco retailers, which will allow law enforcement to hold predatory sellers accountable
- NC is one of 7 states that has not raised the age
- NC Is one of 9 states that does not require a license to sell vapes and tobacco

Legislative Update



Press Conference to introduce H430 S318 “Solly’s Law” to Protect Youth from Harms of Vaping and Nicotine March 19, 2025





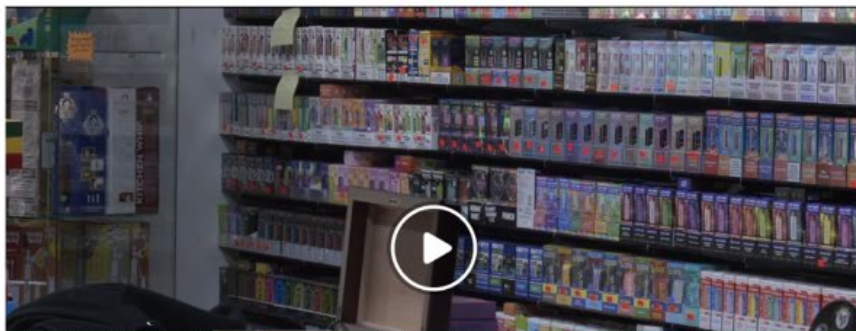
<https://www.wwaytv3.com/state-lawmakers-introduce-bill-to-curb-youth-vaping/>



NEWS ▾ MORE NEWS ▾ WEATHER ▾ SPORTS ▾ COMMUNITY ▾ VIDEO ▾ TV SHOP

State Lawmakers introduce bill to curb youth vaping

22 hours ago by Ava Dorn



ABC Channel 3
Wilmington

[Donate](#)[Sub](#)[Home](#)[About](#) ▾[Contact](#)[Topics](#) ▾[Series](#) ▾[NCGA Videos](#)[Health Care Job Listings](#)[Coronavirus](#)[En Español](#)**STATE HEALTH POLICY**

NC House and Senate bills would raise age for tobacco sales to 21, create permitting system for retailers

North Carolina is one of seven states that still allow 18-year-olds to buy tobacco.



by **Grace Vitaglione**

March 20, 2025



<https://www.northcarolinahealthnews.org/2025/03/20/bills-would-raise-age-for-tobacco-sales-to-21-create-permitting-system-for-retailers/>

<https://www.wral.com/lifestyle/health/nc-bill-raise-tobacco-age-21-sollys-law-march-2025/>

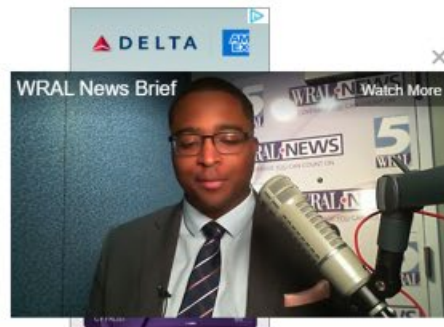
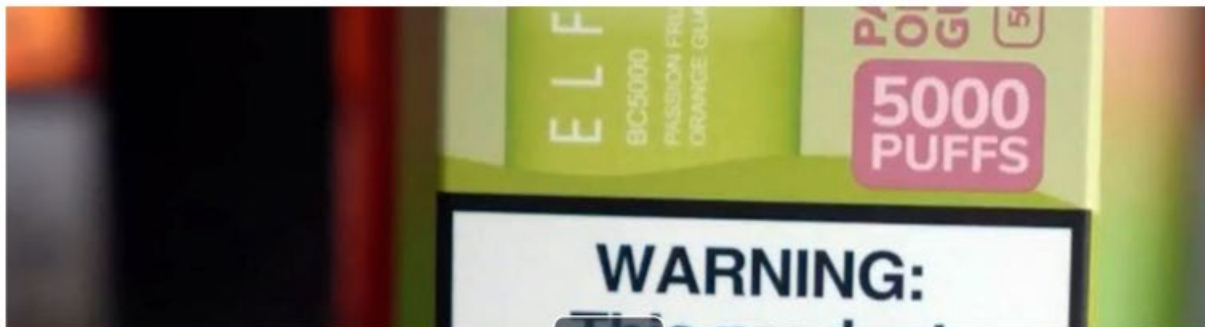


NBC Affiliate
Research Triangle Area
Raleigh

Mourning mother, NC lawmakers push to raise age to buy tobacco products to 21

The bipartisan effort would also require a tobacco retail sales permit for stores selling vapes and tobacco products.

Posted 6:33 PM Mar 18, 2025 — Updated 6:22 PM yesterday



‘Solly’s Law’ to restrict youth vaping introduced in NC legislature



Ben Humphries
March 20, 2025



REPUBLISH THIS STORY

News Juuling K-12 Health Legislature 2025

“It is quite frankly unacceptable... This is killing our kids. It’s killing our kids. It’s affecting their brains,” he said.



Deputy Jake Petersen recounts his experience seeing the vaping epidemic firsthand as an SRO at East Alamance High School. Ben Humphries/EdNC

ABC News 12 Eastern NC, New Bern

<https://wcti12.com/news/local/north-carolina-lawmakers-introduce-sollys-law-to-address-rising-youth-vaping-concerns>

NEWS 12

NEWSWEATHERHOME OF THE BRAVESTATIONGAME CENTERWATCH

North Carolina lawmakers introduce 'Solly's Law' to combat youth vaping

by Abby Bradshaw and Moriah Davis | Wed, March 19th 2025 at 5:09 PM
Updated Wed, March 19th 2025 at 5:10 PM



Kentucky passes tobacco retail licensing March 24, 2025
Had raised the tobacco sales age to 21 in March, 2020

House votes to 'put Kentucky kids ahead of tobacco,' license retailers of nicotine products

BY: SARAH LADD - MARCH 12, 2025 7:47 PM



Mallory Jones, a high school senior, testified “It’s time for us to put Kentucky kids ahead of tobacco,” she said.

Seven hours later, SB 100 cleared the House with bipartisan support.

<https://kentuckylantern.com/briefs/house-votes-to-put-kentucky-kids-ahead-of-tobacco-license-retailers-of-nicotine-products>



June 3 Youth Voices Media Conference

18 Youth from:

- East Duplin High School
- Eastern Alamance High School
- Wake County:
 - Poe Center for Health Education
 - American Heart Association Clubs
 - Apex Friendship High School

Advocates ask lawmakers for a hearing on youth vaping law



Ben Humphries
June 3, 2025



REPUBLISH THIS STORY

News

K-12

Health

Legislature 2025

<https://www.ednc.org/6-3-2025-advocates-ask-lawmakers-for-a-hearing-on-youth-vaping-law/>

HEALTH & FITNESS

'Solly's Law' calls to raise age to purchase tobacco to 21, add permitting system in NC



By [Michael Perchick](#) 
Tuesday, June 3, 2025



ABC Channel 11

CBS 17
WNCN

NORTH CAROLINA NEWS

NC advocates continue push for bill to crack down on youth vaping

by: [Brea Hollingsworth](#)

Posted: Jun 3, 2025 / 01:53 PM EDT

Updated: Jun 3, 2025 / 04:44 PM EDT

SHARE



RALEIGH, N.C. (WNCN) — Dozens of advocates joined together at the North Carolina General Assembly to push for a bill that would crack down on youth vaping.

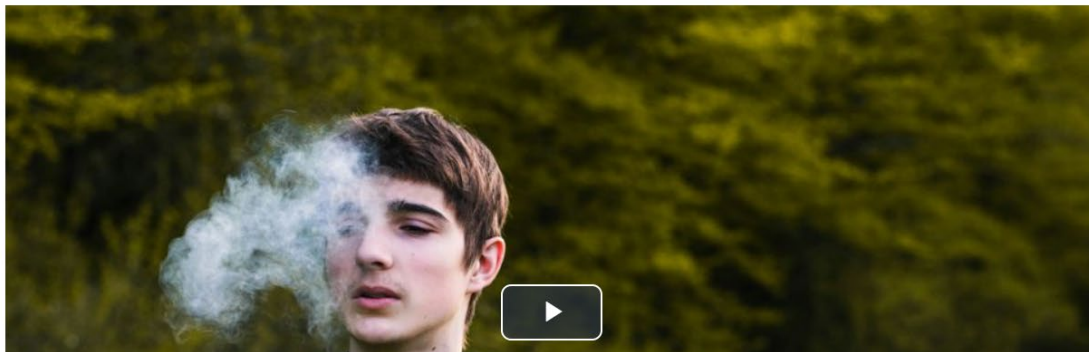
[NEWS](#)[WEATHER](#)[SPECIALISTS](#)[SPORTS](#)[BUSINESS](#)[CONSUMER](#)[HEALTH](#)[LIFE](#)[OUT & ABOUT](#)

92°F

NC lawmakers debate raising tobacco purchase age to 21 amid vaping crisis

State lawmakers are considering a bill that would raise the age of sale for tobacco and vape products to 21 in an effort to get North Carolina in compliance with federal law.

Posted 5:00 AM Jun 3, 2025 — Updated 12:06 AM Jun 4, 2025



WRAL

← → × wbtv.com/2025/06/03/lawmakers-pushing-raise-legal-age-buy-tobacco-products-north-carolina/

house on Spring Dri... Welcome | Orange... Inbox (951) - meg1... HOME - Care4Caroli... Login | Extension M... My Drive - Google... Next

  **Live** News Weather Traffic **WBTV Investigates** On Your Side Tonight QC Life Sports Community

Lawmakers pushing to raise legal age to buy tobacco products in North Carolina

N.C. House bill would raise legal purchasing age from 18 to 21 years old

WBTV

newsline.com/2025/06/03/teens-press-nc-lawmakers-to-raise-the-age-for-tobacco-vape-products-to-21/

Dri... Welcome | Orange... Inbox (951) - meg1... HOME - Care4Caroli... Login | Extension M... My Drive - Google... Next NC-Business-Partne... MedEx Resolution

STATE, LOCAL GOVT. EDUCATION ENVIRONMENT COURTS, JUSTICE COMMENTARY PODCASTS NATIONAL

HEALTH STATE, LOCAL GOVT.

Teens press NC lawmakers to raise the age for tobacco, vape products to 21

North Carolina currently ranks 6th in the nation for youth vaping.

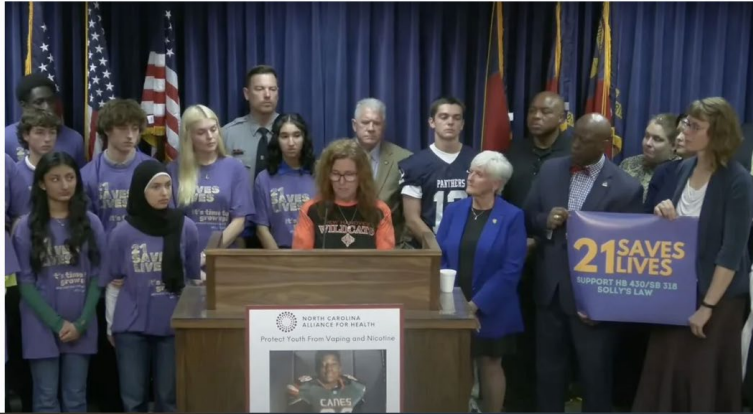
BY: CLAYTON HENKEL - JUNE 3, 2025 12:53 PM

NC Newsline

Tighter regulations on vape shops sought in No

By David Beasley | The Center Square contributor Jun 3, 2025



Representative Loftis
WBT Charlotte radio show

The Center Square

135 Resolutions

County Commissioners
Public Health Boards
School Boards
Foundations
NC Healthcare Association
Sheriff's Offices
Police Departments
Youth and Community
Organizations

OPINION

Allen Johnson, Editorial Page Editor
allen.johnson@greensboro.com



For more columns:
greensboro.com click on opinion

"We will provide a safe space for community dialogue. We will demand accountability and vision from our leaders, and we will hold ourselves to those same standards. We will seek constructive solutions to our problems and celebrate our successes. We will strive every day to be fair, honest, inclusive and constructive." — **The Editorial Board**

I lost my son to vaping; let's protect others

My stepson Solomon should have celebrated his 17th birthday on June 5. Instead of buying him a present, I was in Raleigh asking lawmakers to protect North Carolina youth from vaping and nicotine.

My son died on Saturday, June 17, 2023, because of vaping. Since Solomon's death I have devoted my life to advocating for the health and safety of children in North Carolina, including working to get Solly's Law (HB 430 and SB 318) passed.

Solly's Law was introduced on March 19 with bipartisan support to raise the sales age of vapes and nicotine to 21, and to require that tobacco be permitted as alcohol is, so there are consequences to shops that sell to underage kids. Hundreds of health, education, county and town, and law enforcement boards have endorsed this legislation.

Unfortunately, this commonsense bill has been stuck and has yet to have a hearing. Every moment this bill is de-



JESSIE POUNDS, NEWS & RECORD

Various vaping devices are displayed at a presentation for parents about teenage vaping at Page High School in Greensboro in 2019.

layed, more kids get sick and more kids will become addicted to devastating effects of nicotine.

Solomon got sick in March of 2023. We were shocked to learn he had been vaping. He went from being a healthy member of the New Hanover High School football team with no underlying health issues to a very sick teenager almost overnight. Solomon was diagnosed with "Popcorn Lungs," which caused air hunger and shortness of breath without

any movement.

Solomon enjoyed the things that most teenage boys like, sports, hanging out with friends, playing video games, riding his bike, etc. His favorite thing was going to the gym with his dad on Saturday mornings. Because of vaping, there were many days he didn't have the strength to walk from the house to the bus stop, much less be a typical teenage boy or go to the gym with this dad.

On Friday, June 16, 2023, Solomon collapsed at home. His father and EMTs had to give our son CPR. Unfortunately, by the time EMTs stabilized Solomon to transport him to the hospital, his body had suffered too much damage to survive. The lack of oxygen to his organs caused irreversible hypoxia, which resulted in Solomon's death. Had my son not collapsed the day he did, he would have needed a heart and lung transplant to survive.

Vapes and other nicotine products should not be available to underage kids. Solly's Law has the vital key elements that would increase the age to purchase vape and nicotine products to 21, put retail permitting in place which would

allow law enforcement to be able to do something for the bad actors who sell to underage kids. While education is important, that will not be enough. The best way is to strengthen our laws.

North Carolina is one of the handful of states that have not raised the age to sell vapor and nicotine. In addition, we are one of eight states that have not set up a retail permitting system. Vaping and nicotine products are gateways to a lifetime of addiction. We need to show the children of North Carolina that we care, we need to protect their future, keep them safe, allow them to experience the things Solomon will not have the opportunity to do.

I ask our North Carolina leaders to put kids before the vape and tobacco industries and give Solly's Law a hearing. The bill needs to be passed and sent to the governor to be signed into law.

Together we can protect our youth, so that no other family ever has to lose a child the way we lost Solly.

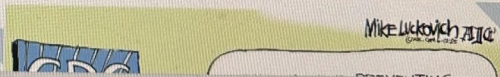
Charlene Zorn is a member of the North Carolina Alliance for Health Tobacco 21 Advisory Committee.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump the peacemaker

Our president wants to be known as a peacemaker. He wants to be known as a

who disagree with him and his policies actually hate America.



June 18

Charlene Zorn
OpEd

Greensboro News
and Record

Capital News Tonight – June 25

- Representative Loftis
- Senator Gale Adcock
- Charlene Zorn



Capital Tonight, Spectrum News



Educating ourselves and our coalition partners

- Dr. Tobe Gilbert, child neuropsychologist, Jacksonville Police Department, how vapes harm the developing brain
- Charlene Zorn, Solly's Stepmom – this can happen to anyone
- Jake Peterson, School Resource Officer, Eastern Alamance High School & Captain, Alamance Sheriff's Office, vapes are everywhere
- Shannon Baker, Kentucky Chapter of the American Lung Association, youth were critical in passing this law in KY
- Representative Loftis - why this is important
- Law professor, Dr. Jill Moore, UNC School of Government, reviewed NC's current youth tobacco access law and Vapor Registry law & highlighted new protections with Solly's Law.
- Beloved Harnett High School Teacher Gary Pearce hates what vapes are doing to students. His students gave him a birthday gift of steamrolling confiscated vapes
- Dr. Shelley Golden, new research on tobacco retail outlet density increases hospital readmission rates

Year 2 of the Tobacco 21 Campaign

- Leadership home within the NC Public Health Association
- Strategy Summit in October
- Build Statewide Youth Network to advocate for Solly's Law
- Highlight military readiness
- Advertising and Social Media
- Grow legislator awareness of the problem and the solution

Nicotine is highly addictive

A vape pod can contain **40-90** times nicotine in a cigarette





Peg O'Connell, JD
Chair, Tobacco 21 Coalition
Peg.T21@ncapha.org

Meg Molloy, DrPH, MPH
Managing Director
Tobacco 21 Coalition
Meg.T21@ncapha.org