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DRUG EDUCATION COUNCIL, INC.

3000 Television Avenue
Mobile, Alabama 36606

Phone: (251) 478-7855

Fax: (251) 478-7865

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Underage Vaping Bill Passes Unanimously

In a rare show of bipartisan support, the Underage Vaping Bill passed the Alabama House of Representatives in a 103-0 vote yesterday following a similar unanimous vote in the State Senate last month.

The bill, which bans possession of vaping devices by persons under the age of 21, was sponsored by Alabama State Senator Vivian Davis Figures and had the entirety of the Senate as co-sponsors. It now goes to the Governor for her signature.

"I am truly thankful for the entire Alabama State Legislature for its strong show of support for getting vapes out of the hands of our young people," said Virginia Guy, executive director of the Drug Education Council. "Vapes not only represent health and addiction hazards for youth, they also have become the drug delivery vehicle of choice. This bill makes it illegal for these young people to be in possession of a vape, no matter what substance, if any, is in the device."

Guy said that underage vaping is a huge health crisis in our community, with children as young as seven- or eight-years old beginning to vape.

"This is a tremendous first-step to help end underage vaping," Guy said. "We want parents, educators, coaches and others to have the authority to take away vapes from young people. It allows law enforcement to seize vapes without having to conduct expensive tests to determine whether the device contains an illegal substance. Simple possession constitutes a violation."

Guy added, "Our purpose is to inform, educate, prevent,... and also to provide help for those who may already be addicted," Guy said. "Adults and minors alike need to understand the health risks associated with underage vaping. Please know, my Drug Education Council team will continue our work protecting our children from dangerous and deadly drugs in our community."