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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**A4098 (S2877) GOES TO GOV. CHRISTIE'S DESK AFTER PASSING ASSEMBLY TODAY:
REQUIRES CHILD-RESISTANT PACKAGING OF LIQUID NICOTINE FOR E-CIGARETTES**

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On December 17, 2015 the New Jersey Assembly unanimously voted through A4098, which will require child-resistant packaging for containers of nicotine liquid, wax or gel that is sold, marketed or intended for use in a vapor product. Assembly Members Nancy Pinkin and Shavonda Sumter are the primary sponsors. Senate companion bill S2877 passed the full Senate on December 7, 2015 with all present voting in favor (S2877 primary sponsors are Senators Richard Codey and Linda Greenstein).

"There is a correlation between rising electronic smoking device (ESD) use, and increases in reported cases of nicotine poisoning of toddlers," says **Karen Blumenfeld, Esq., Executive Director of Global Advisors on Smokefree Policy (GASP)**. "One teaspoon of liquid nicotine could be lethal to a child, according to the American Association of Poison Control," Blumenfeld shared.

"It's a growing issue. New Jersey reported 45 cases of nicotine poisoning in 2014, vs. 9 in 2011. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control reported 215 e-cigarette poison control calls for February 2014, vs. 1 call for September 2011. Federal health officials believe that this figure is an underestimation, given that it only covers calls to poison control centers, but not 911 calls or emergency room visits," Blumenfeld shared. **"We are confident that Governor Christie will sign the bill, especially since there's been no opposition."**

Blumenfeld shared, "ESDs come in many forms. Refillables posing nicotine poisoning concerns when packaging is not child-resistant. A4098/S2877 will require child-resistant containers for nicotine to help prevent such poisonings. 17 States already require it. New Jersey and five (5) more states are proposing it, as is the federal government, and the American Medical Association and the American Association of Family Physicians issued resolutions to support requiring child-resistant packaging for nicotine liquids."

According to GASP's research, the 17 States that already require child-resistant packaging for nicotine liquids are Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Vermont and Wyoming. 6 states have bills in process: California, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Washington. The federal government is also considering legislation and regulations.

GASP is the only NJ-based nonprofit educational resource provider on this bill, and continues to track research on health issues with ESD use and exposure. In 2010, New Jersey was the first State in the nation to ban the use of ESDs in all public places and workplaces covered by the 2006 NJ Smokefree Air Act. There is no waiver to allow for smoking/vaping of ESDs in bars, restaurants or even vape shops.

About GASP: Global Advisors on Smokefree Policy (GASP) is based in Summit, New Jersey. It is a 41-year old non-profit that researches trending topics in tobacco control, provides educational technical assistance on emerging trends in tobacco control and policy, and tracks laws and policies on tobacco-free living and smokefree environments. Learn more at www.njgasp.org and like our Facebook page.