

## PROCLAMATION

Whereas, liquid nicotine is a deadly toxin used at varying levels in e-cigarette liquids; and

Whereas e-cigarette liquids are unregulated products sold over the counter at convenience stores in containers that are not required to be childproof; and

Whereas, accidental exposure to liquid nicotine by children is a serious public health concern created by the growing popularity of e-cigarettes in New Jersey and across the nation; and

Whereas, poison centers have seen a dramatic rise in e-cigarette-related calls, more than half involving children age five and younger; and

Whereas, at the lethal dose range of nicotine some small (15mL) bottles of e-liquid contain sufficient liquid nicotine to kill as many as four small children – one swallow can be fatal; and

Whereas, children may be drawn to this colorful liquid available in hundreds of enticing candy and fruit flavors; and

Whereas, there are three routes of exposure that are toxic to children: 1) by mouth, even without swallowing, liquid nicotine will be absorbed into the child's mucous membranes similar to nicotine gum; 2) if swallowed, it will be absorbed in the intestinal tract; and 3) if spilled on the child's skin, it will be absorbed through the skin, similar to a nicotine patch; and

Whereas, symptoms of liquid nicotine poisoning include vomiting, difficulty breathing, increased heart rate, and a jittery and unsteady appearance; and

Whereas, the New Jersey Department of Health has joined with partners across the State to encourage everyone – parents, caregivers, other family members and friends – to keep e-cigarette devices and liquid nicotine refills stored safely out of children's reach;

Now, Therefore, I, the Honorable Chris Christie, Governor of New Jersey, recognize the valuable contributions of the professionals working in healthcare, childcare and youth services for the well-being of our children and families, and I

encourage them to join together in preventing tragic and avoidable harm to children from exposure to liquid nicotine through public information and consumer protection.