Hearing Transcripts

Use Hearings Transcripts (included in Congressional Basic beginning in 1988) to find out about topics in the news – from Benghazi to sexual assault on campus, campus safety, student athletes, racial profiling, e-cigarettes and more – Congress wants to know about it, and invites the experts and the interested parties to tell them about it.


Jason Healy (Founder, blu eCigs): Back in 2008 I tried my first electronic cigarette. As a smoker I saw tremendous opportunity for myself and other smokers. I immediately saw that this innovative product could provide an alternative to smokers who enjoy smoking or who struggle to quit, like myself, but don’t want the negative effects of traditional cigarettes on their health ... Today, every time I use an e-cig instead of a combustible cigarette, it is a good decision.

Scott D. Ballin, JD (Health Policy Consultant): The swiftness with which e-cigarettes have gained popularity has caught many off guard ... Today, it is estimated that there are somewhere between 5,000 -10,000 e-cigarette/vaping manufacturers, companies and stores with a growing array of differing products. While I have long believed that there would be new categories and new products entering in the market, I like everyone else have been overwhelmed with what has happened. ... the cigarette market in the US is around $85 billion. Most smokers want to quit and if we can provide those smokers with science based, consumer acceptable lower risk products we could fundamentally alter the current marketplace and save hundreds of thousands of premature deaths.

Susanne E. Tanski, MD, MPH, FAAP (Practicing Pediatrician and Associate Professor, Pediatrics, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth; American Academy of Pediatrics): ... it is unknown if the availability of these products leads to smoking initiation among non-smoking youth, and whether experimentation with these leads to nicotine addiction... tobacco products are being advertised on television. The historical evidence is robust that marketing directly influences youth, and a recent study has identified substantial exposure of youth to televised e-cigarette ads.1 ...Use among young people is growing: in just one year, the ever and current use of e-cigarettes doubled among U.S. high school students, from 4.7% in 2011 to 10.0% in 2012 (for everuse). While the rate of having tried e-cigarettes is still far lower than that of cigarettes, as of 2012, approximately 1.78 million U.S. students reported using an e-cigarette.

Craig Weiss (President and CEO NJOY): ... our corporate mission is to obsolete the tobacco cigarette – and the death and disease that it has left in its wake....The World Health Organization predicts one billion premature deaths from smoking in this century, and almost one American every minute has their life cut short because of combustion cigarettes... Electronic nicotine delivery systems (``ENDS``) ... hold the potential to play a critical role. ENDS give smokers who either cannot or will not quit a positive alternative to combustion smoking. They provide smokers with the nicotine that they are addicted to and crave without the combustion of tobacco.

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Hearing Transcripts

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College Athletics, July 09, 2014
Sen. Jay Rockefeller

I remember a meeting I had in my office with the three top executives of ESPN. And it was one of those meetings in which I didn’t say a word because they just went around in circles, each talking about what a great business model they had, how they had control and the power that no other broadcast system, whatever, have and how thrilled they were -- were with it, and how they were going to make it even stronger. There’s a growing perception that college athletics, particularly division on (ph) football and basketball are not avocations at all.

Best Practices for Making College Campuses Safe
May 15, 2007
Steven J. Healy, Princeton University

The fact, that according to one study, nearly one in five women in college will be victims of sexual assault or attempted assault during their undergraduate careers should shake the conscience of all of us, and it demands our action.

Sexual Assault on University Campus
December 9, 2014
Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand

CLINTON: Well, I think Congressman you -- you drew exactly the right description. Is it -- is it will, or is it capacity when obviously what you need is both? I have found the Libyan officials to be willing, but without capacity. And part of our challenge is to help them build greater capacity, because now it’s about them. You know it’s not only about what happened to us in Benghazi, which every official in the Libyan government was deeply upset about, but they have their own problems now.

They’re having leaders attacked and assassinated on a regular basis. So, we have to do more to help them build up their security capacity and again, I would ask this committee to work with us. There

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