

## NCSL Vaping Session Biographies

### **The Latest on Vaping: Addressing Injuries, Misinformation and Policy**

**Tuesday, Dec. 10 | 3:30pm – 4:45 pm**

**Summary:** The Latest on Vaping: Addressing Injuries, Misinformation and Policy

A multistate outbreak of lung injuries associated with the use of electronic cigarettes, or vaping products, is being investigated by multiple organizations. They include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Congress, state and local health departments, and other clinical and public health partners. Explore e-cigarette regulations, an update of lung injuries associated with vaping products, and strategies the CDC and state and local health departments are using to address e-cigarettes and vaping. Hear from national experts working at the state level on approaches they are employing to address the outbreak.

**Moderator:** Kate Blackman, NCSL Health Program Group Director

**Panelist:** Darcie Johnston, Director, Intergovernmental Affairs at the Department of Health and Human Services

**Panelist:** Dr. Chris Jones, CAPT, US Public Health Service Senior Advisor, Associate Director of Strategy and Innovation

**Panelist:** Dr. Cara Christ, Arizona Department of Health Services, State Health Official and Director

**Legislative Respondent:** Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, District 17 Oregon Legislature, Senate Deputy Majority Leader

**Legislative Respondent:** Senator Deb Soholt, District 14 South Dakota Legislature

**Track:** Health and Human Services

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### [Darcie Johnston](#)

#### **Director, Intergovernmental Affairs at the Department of Health and Human Services**

Darcie Lang Johnston joined HHS' Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs (IEA) at the beginning of the Trump administration after working on the inauguration committee. She became Director of Intergovernmental Affairs in March 2017.

### [Dr. Chris Jones](#)

#### **Dr. Chris Jones, CAPT, US Public Health Service Senior Advisor, Associate Director of Strategy and Innovation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

Dr. Christopher Jones currently serves as a Senior Advisor and is the Associate Director in the Office of Strategy and Innovation in the CDC Injury Center. As Senior Advisor, he provides strategic policy and scientific direction and coordination on a broad range of injury and violence topics including drug overdose, suicide, and adverse childhood experiences. In addition, as the Associate Director, he leads strategic planning efforts and the development of innovations across Injury Center programs and topics; leads a team of scientists and public health practitioners to advance innovative approaches to using data to inform prevention efforts, builds partnerships to advance public health data and surveillance, and strengthens interagency and nongovernmental collaborations on injury and violence prevention; and serves as a senior scientist conducting epidemiological and policy research.

### [Dr. Cara Christ](#)

#### **Dr. Cara Christ, Arizona Department of Health Services, State Health Official and Director**

Arizona Department of Health Services Director Cara M. Christ, M.D., M.S., has worked for the agency for more than nine years in multiple positions. In May 2015 Dr. Christ was appointed as Director by Governor Doug Ducey. Dr. Christ started her ADHS career in 2000 as an Infectious Disease Epidemiologist. She left ADHS in 2001 to attend medical school at the University of Arizona and completed her residency at Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center in Phoenix. Dr. Christ obtained her master's degree in microbiology with an emphasis in molecular virology and public health. She earned her Doctor of Medicine from the University of Arizona College of Medicine. Dr. Christ returned to ADHS after her residency to serve as the State Tuberculosis Control Officer and Medical Director for the Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease Control between 2008 and 2009. From 2009 to 2012, she was the Bureau Chief for Epidemiology and Disease Control and Public Health Chief Medical Officer. Dr. Christ then served as the Assistant Director for the Division of Public Health Licensing Services from 2012 to 2014. In her previous position before becoming Director, she served as the Deputy Director for the Division of Public Health Services beginning in 2014. Dr. Christ has served as the Chief Medical Officer for ADHS since 2012.

### [Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Senate Deputy Majority Leader \(OR\)](#)

In 2011, I ran for office because I wanted to make Oregon the healthiest state in the nation. In my tenure as a State Senator, I've achieved many accomplishments in working towards that goal. These include establishing Oregon's CCO system which streamlines and integrates health systems to deliver healthcare more efficiently, increasing Oregon's vaccination rates, and most recently, raising the legal age for purchasing tobacco to 21. When I'm not serving in the Legislature, I am a physician practicing Family Medicine at OHSU. My 25 years of experience as a health care provider have given me a breadth of understanding of state systems that can be transferred to other large systems and agencies in our state government. I've also learned through my time in elected office that in order to make Oregon the healthiest state, we need Oregonians to be well educated, have affordable housing and access to nutritious foods, and need a stable economy to rely on. With my experience as a health care provider and a vision to create the healthiest state in the nation, I continue to work on bridging the gaps where health care, human services, education, and public safety meet.

### [Senator Deb Soholt \(SD\)](#)

A member of the South Dakota Senate representing District 14 as well as Director of Women's Health at Avera McKennan. Senator Soholt earned her BSN from University of North Dakota and her MSN from South Dakota State University. She is a registered nurse with over thirty years of experience in healthcare and has previously served as President of the South Dakota Board of Nursing. She has lived in South Dakota for over thirty years with her husband Jerry. They have three children.