State Medicaid and ENDS Issues

**Medicaid**

- New study: Medicaid Expansion Slowed Rates Of Health Decline For Low-Income Adults In Southern States
- Despite benefits, 14 states have yet to expand Medicaid
- Waiver activity: some states continue to pursue work requirement waivers; after Arkansas implemented work requirements 18,000 lost coverage without employment gains. AR waiver blocked by courts, being appealed.
- HHS expected to release guidance this week on Medicaid block grants. Tennessee has already applied for a block grant waiver. Expect lots of controversy and lawsuits.

**ENDS/Electronic cigarettes/Vaping**

- U.S. is experiencing a youth vaping epidemic. Dec 2019: Federal law raised legal purchasing age for tobacco products to 21.
- Jan 2020: FDA released guidance banning fruit, mint flavors in closed pod-style ENDS (JUUL), BUT exempted menthol flavors, open-tank flavors
- A number of states (MI, MA) taking action to control ENDS, including flavor bans
- New Surgeon General report on smoking cessation says “there is currently inadequate evidence to conclude that e-cigarettes, in general, increase smoking cessation.”