

A Resolution to Endorse a Ban on the Sale of Menthol Tobacco Products and All Flavored Tobacco Products in Michigan

A resolution to endorse a ban on the sale of menthol tobacco products and all flavored tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, in Michigan.

Whereas, Commercial tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in Michigan and contributes greatly to heart disease, cancer and stroke; and

Whereas, The tobacco industry has a long history of targeting youth and young adults with flavored products and flavors play a key role in youth initiation and continued use of tobacco products¹. Data shows 80.8% of 12-17-year-olds who had ever used a tobacco product started using with a flavored product, and at least two-thirds of youth reported using these products "because they come in flavors [they] like."² Data has found that 72.3% of current tobacco users had used a flavored tobacco product in the past month³; and

Whereas, A recent study suggests that adults' use of flavored tobacco products is associated with increased tobacco dependence, and use of flavored e-cigarettes, flavored cigars and menthol cigarettes is associated with daily tobacco use⁴; and

Whereas, Flavors improve the taste and mask the harshness of tobacco products, most notably, menthol flavor. Menthol is a chemical added to cigarettes and other tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, that creates a cooling sensation and masks the harshness of smoking.⁵ These features make menthol more appealing to youth and new smokers. Menthol makes tobacco products more addictive and more difficult to quit; and

Whereas, Menthol cigarette use is widespread in certain population groups, including African Americans, Hispanics, youth, and LGBT people, and these groups are unequally impacted by the harms of menthol cigarettes. More than half (54%) of youth ages 12-17 years and 7 out of 10 African American youth ages 12-17 who smoke use menthol cigarettes.⁶ Even though African Americans usually smoke fewer cigarettes, they are more likely to die from smoking-related diseases than White individuals. Approximately 34.7% of Hispanic adults smoke menthol cigarettes as compared to 24.6% of white adults.⁷ Among all current LGBT cigarette smokers, menthol use was significantly higher at 36.3% compared to 29.3% of heterosexual/straight smokers; this difference was particularly prominent among LGBT females (42.9%) compared to heterosexual/straight women (32.4%).⁸ Those with mental illness as well as those who have lower income and education also use menthol cigarettes at higher rates; and

Whereas, Banning the sale of menthol tobacco products and all flavored tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, would help prevent a new generation

of tobacco users, save millions of lives, reduce health care costs, and ensure an equitable approach to better health in the United States⁹; and

Whereas, Banning the sale of menthol tobacco products would save lives. Studies estimate that banning menthol cigarettes in the U.S. would lead 923,000 smokers to quit, including 230,000 African Americans, and project that a ban would avert 633,000 deaths, including 237,000 deaths among African Americans^{10,11}; and

Whereas, Many states and localities have already banned flavored tobacco products, including menthol, to protect kids and reduce health related disparities in certain communities and Michigan should lead to protect the health of Michiganders¹²; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the undersigned endorse(s) a ban on the sale of menthol tobacco products and all flavored tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, in the State of Michigan. The undersigned authorizes Tobacco Free Michigan to use the individual's name and/or organization's name and logo to promote this objective.

For organizational sign on:

Organization Name:

Number of Members or employees:

Contact person's name and title: (Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr./Other)

Organization Address:

Phone, E-mail:

Authorized Signature:

Date:

For individual sign on:

Name and title: (Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr./Other)

Address:

Phone, E-mail:

Authorized Signature:

Date:

¹ Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. "Ending the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products." January 4, 2021. Accessed August 4, 2021.

[ENDING THE SALE OF FLAVORED TOBACCO PRODUCTS - Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids \(tobaccofreekids.org\)](https://www.tobaccofreekids.org)

² Ambrose, BK, et al., "Flavored Tobacco Product Use Among US Youth Aged 12-17 Years, 2013-2014," Journal of the American Medical Association, published online October 26, 2015.

³ Rose, S, et al., "Flavour types used by youth and adult tobacco users in wave 2 of the Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) Study 2015-2015," Tobacco Control, published online September 21, 2019.

⁴ Satomi Odani, Brian Armour, Israel T. Agaku. "Flavored Tobacco Product Use and Its Association With Indicators of Tobacco Dependence Among US Adults," 2014-2015. Nicotine Tob Res. 2020 May 26;22(6):1004-1015. doi: 10.1093/ntr/ntz092

⁵ Truth initiative. 2018. "Menthol: Facts, stats and regulations." Accessed August 4, 2021. Available at:

<https://truthinitiative.org/research-resources/traditional-tobacco-products/menthol-facts-stats-and-regulations>

⁶ Villanti AC, Mowery PD, Delnevo CD, Niaura RS, Abrams DB, Giovino GA. [Changes in the prevalence and correlates of menthol cigarette use in the USA, 2004-2014](#)^{external icon}. Tob Control. 2016;25:ii14-ii20. Doi:10.1136/tobaccocontrol-2016-053329

⁷ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health. [The 2014-2015 Tobacco Use Supplement to the Current Population Survey \(TUS-CPS\)pdf iconexternal icon](#). November 2017

⁸ [Amanda Fallin](#), PhD, RN, [Amie J. Goodin](#), MPP, and [Brian A. King](#), PhD, MP. Menthol Cigarette Smoking among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Adults. *Am J Prev Med.* 2015 Jan; 48(1): 93–97.

⁹ Matt Pierce. “It is Time to End the Sale of All Flavored Tobacco Products.” Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Culture of Health Blog, 4.23.2021. Obtained online at: [It Is Time to End the Sale of All Flavored Tobacco Products - RWJF](#)

¹⁰ David T. Levy, et al. “Modeling the Future Effects of a Menthol Ban on Smoking Prevalence and Smoking-Attributable Deaths in the United States”, *American Journal of Public Health* 101, no. 7 (July 1, 2011): pp. 1236-1240.

<https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2011.300179>

¹¹ Chung-Hall J, Fong GT, Meng G, *et al.* “Evaluating the impact of menthol cigarette bans on cessation and smoking behaviours in Canada: longitudinal findings from the Canadian arm of the 2016–2018 ITC Four Country Smoking and Vaping Surveys.” *Tobacco Control* Published Online First: 05 April 2021. doi: 10.1136/tobaccocontrol-2020-056259

¹² Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. “Ending the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products.” January 4, 2021. Accessed August 4, 2021.

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