



COALITION TO END TOBACCO TARGETING

We the undersigned, express our support for the City of Columbus enacting legislation to end the sale of flavored tobacco products in our city. While we have witnessed the ravages of all tobacco, flavored tobacco products pose a unique threat to the health of our residents.

As the only flavored cigarette left on the market, menthol cigarettes have a devastating impact on youth initiation of tobacco use and are a significant cause of health disparities and preventable death in the Black community. The science is clear: Because menthol reduces the harshness of tobacco, it makes it easier to start using tobacco products, can lead to increased nicotine addiction, and makes it harder for people to quit.

For decades, tobacco companies have targeted specific communities with marketing for menthol cigarettes, especially Black communities. As a result, the percentage of Black smokers using menthol has increased from 10% in the 1950s to 85% today. This is the effect of predatory targeting, not preference. Meanwhile, tobacco claims approximately 45,000 Black lives each year, making it the leading cause of preventable death in the Black community.

The tobacco industry knows that 95% of adult smokers start by age 21. They have a long history of targeting kids with flavored products. There are more than 15,500 unique e-cigarette flavors and more than 250 unique flavors of cigars on the market – flavors such as bubblegum, cherry dynamite, popcorn and blueberry ice. These flavored tobacco products are addicting a new generation of kids to nicotine and reversing the decades-long progress in reducing youth tobacco use.

The City of Columbus has a proud history of taking action in support of public health. Such leadership is needed now. According to the 2019 Ohio Youth Tobacco Survey, nearly one in four high school students and nearly 13% of middle school students have used a flavored tobacco product. In Franklin County, Columbus Public Health has seen an 8% increase in smoking rates for African American adults. Ending the sale of flavored tobacco in Columbus will not solve all the health problems caused by tobacco use, but it will significantly reduce the number of people who become addicted to nicotine in the first place.

Now is the time to act, and now is the time to lead. Please protect our residents from the predatory tactics of the tobacco industry by ending the sale of flavored tobacco in Columbus.

Thank you.

Local Supporters and Members of the Coalition to End Tobacco Targeting

****As of August 15, 2022***

Action for Children
ADAMH Board of Franklin County
Africentric Personal Development Shop, Inc.
AIDS Healthcare Foundation
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital & Richard J. Solove Research Institute
Black Girl Rising
Black Physician's Network
Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids
Cancer Support Community
Central Community House
Charitable Pharmacy of Central Ohio
Children's Defense Fund-Ohio
Columbus Medical Association
Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority
Columbus Public Health
Columbus Urban League
Community for New Direction
Franklin County Public Health
Future Ready Columbus
Gamma Alpha
Help & Hope Community Center
Human Services Chamber
Impact Community Action
Kaleidoscope Youth Center
Local Matters
Maryhaven
Mid-Ohio Food Collective
Mt. Carmel Health System
NAACP Columbus Chapter
National Coalition of 100 Black Women
National Pan-Hellenic Council of Columbus
National Youth Advocate Program
Nationwide Children's Hospital
Ohio Academy of Family Physicians
Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
OhioHealth
Parents Against Vaping E-cigarettes
Pelotonia
PFLAG Columbus (OH)
PrimaryOne Health
Preventing Tobacco Addiction Foundation/Tobacco 21
St. Vincent Family Services
Star House
Stonewall Columbus
Syntero, Inc.
The Breathing Association
The Center for Community Solutions
The Center for Healthy Families
The Columbus African American News Journal
The Ohio State University College of Social Work
The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center
Tailored Fit
United Way of Central Ohio
Urban Strings
Wolfe Park Tennis Association
YWCA Columbus

FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

1st Mt. Carmel Baptist Church
Al-Darusalam Islamic Center
All Nations
Antioch Baptist Church
Bethany Baptist Church
Calvary Tremont Baptist Church
Christ Memorial Baptist Church
Christian Valley Baptist Church
Church of Christ of the Apostolic Faith
City of Grace
City of Zion
Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church
Covenant Life Church
Eastern Union Missionary Baptist Association
First Baptist Church-Chillicothe
First Church of God
Family Baptist Church
Friendship Baptist Church
Good Shepherd Baptist Church
Grace Fellowship Church of Westerville
Greater Twelfth Missionary Baptist Church
Higher Ground Always Abounding Assemblies
Hope City (House of Prayer)
Hosack Street Baptist Church
Interdenominational Association of Ministers Wives & Widows
Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Columbus & Vicinity Jordan
Bible Church
Judah Break Free Church
Kingdom Power Baptist Church
Love Zion Baptist Church
Macedonia Baptist Church
MAS Youth Center
Masjid Ibn Taymiyah & Islamic Center
Metropolitan Church of God in Christ
Mount Carmel Baptist Church
Mount Hermon Baptist Church
Mount Lebanon Baptist Church
Mount Nebo Baptist Church
Mount Olivet Baptist Church
Mount Zion Baptist Church
Mt. Period Baptist Church
Mount Pigsah Baptist Church
New Birth Christian Ministries
New Covenant Believer's Church
New Creation Baptist Church
New Fellowship Baptist Church
New Jerusalem Baptist Church
New Salem Baptist Church
North Linden Baptist Church
Oakley Full Gospel Baptist Church
Pilgrim Baptist Church
Refuge Baptist Church
Resurrection Baptist Church
Rhema Christian Center
Rock City- Short North
Saint John Baptist Church
Saint Paul AME Church
Second Baptist Church
Second Baptist Church-Circleville, OH

Second Baptist Church-Delaware, OH
Second Community Church
Serenity Baptist Church
Southfield Baptist Church
Springhill Baptist Church
St. James Baptist Church
St. John AME
Tabernacle Baptist Church
Temple of Faith Church of God in Christ
The Baptist Ministerial Alliance of Columbus & Vicinity
The Baptist Pastors' Conference of Columbus & Vicinity

The Builders Church
The City of Zion Church
The Truth Church
Traveler's Rest Baptist Church
Triedstone Missionary Baptist Church
Trinity Baptist Church
Union Grove Baptist Church
Unity Baptist Church
Worship Center of Central Ohio
Zion Baptist Church-Chillicothe