

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PROTECT MY KIDS BILL PACKAGE IN THE
MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 6, 2024

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

WHEREAS, tobacco retail licensing is an effective tobacco control measure that requires every store that sells tobacco products to have a license and Michigan is one of only 10 states that does not require retailers to obtain a license to sell tobacco making effective enforcement almost impossible; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bills 651 and 652 seek to establish a statewide Tobacco Retail Licensing (TRL) program, requiring all establishments selling nicotine or tobacco products to obtain a license, thereby enhancing compliance with existing tobacco sales regulations and reducing youth initiation to nicotine and tobacco; and

WHEREAS, Michigan state law prohibits local governments from enacting policies that regulate the sale and licensure of tobacco and nicotine products, keeping local communities from protecting kids' health; and

WHEREAS, 79% of Washtenaw County residents are concerned about young people using tobacco products; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 647 aims to repeal preemption provisions that prohibit local governments from enacting ordinances and regulations pertaining to the sale or licensure of tobacco products, empowering local communities to implement tailored tobacco control measures to protect their residents, particularly youth; and

WHEREAS, Michigan currently has no state tax on e-cigarettes or vaping products that contain nicotine and has not increased its tax on cigarettes in nearly 20 years; and

WHEREAS, The U.S Surgeon General has called raising prices on cigarettes "one of the most effective tobacco control interventions because increasing the price is proven to reduce smoking, especially among kids; and

WHEREAS, Michigan spends less than 10% of the Centers for Disease Control recommendation on tobacco prevention programs; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 648 proposes to establish a new tax on e-cigarettes and increase taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products, with revenue generated dedicated to tobacco prevention and cessation programs, tax enforcement, and enforcement of smoke-free air laws, aligning with evidence-based strategies to reduce tobacco use, especially among youth; and

WHEREAS, flavored tobacco products play a key role in youth initiation and continued use of tobacco. More than 80 percent of 12-17-year-olds who have ever used a tobacco product start with a flavored product. Two-thirds of youth have reported using these products

“because they come in flavors [they] like.” More than 72 percent of current tobacco users surveyed have reported using a flavored tobacco product in the past month; and

WHEREAS, many states and over 360 localities have ended the sale of flavored tobacco products to protect kids and reduce health disparities. If Michigan takes this step, it would be a leader in protecting the health of its residents; and

WHEREAS, 77% of Washtenaw County residents support ending the sale of flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bills 649 and 650 aim to prohibit the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-cigarettes and menthol-flavored cigarettes, recognizing the significant role flavors play in driving youth initiation to tobacco and nicotine products and addressing health disparities within communities disproportionately targeted by the tobacco industry; and

WHEREAS, Michigan laws prohibiting and penalizing the possession, use, and purchase of tobacco products by minors, are ineffective as deterrents to youth smoking are often enforced inequitably and currently retailers are not held accountable for selling to minors; and

WHEREAS; Minors could be criminally charged for attempting to purchase, use, or possess tobacco products and research shows penalizing children is not an effective strategy for reducing youth smoking; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bills 653 and 654 repeal provisions in the Youth Tobacco Act that impose civil and criminal penalties on minors for purchasing, using or possessing tobacco products.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED. that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners support the Protect MI Kids Bill Package and urge the Michigan Legislature to swiftly pass these critical bills to protect the health and well-being of Michigan's children and youth.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners directs the County Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to the Washtenaw County delegation of both the Michigan Senate and House of Representatives; Governor Gretchen Whitmer; and as a communication to other Michigan Counties.

COMMISSIONER	Y	N	A	COMMISSIONER	Y	N	A	COMMISSIONER	Y	N	A
Beeman	X			Maciejewski	X			Somerville	X		
Hodge	X			Rabhi	X						
LaBarre	X			Sanders	X						
Lyte	X			Scott	X						

CLERK/REGISTER'S CERTIFICATE - CERTIFIED COPY

ROLL CALL VOTE:

9 0 0

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

I, Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register of said County of Washtenaw and Clerk of Circuit Court for said County, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of a resolution adopted by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners at a session held at the County Administration Building in the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan, on March 6th, 2024, as it appears of record in my office. In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court at Ann Arbor, this 7th day of March 2024.

COUNTY OF WASHTENAW)^{SS}.

LAWRENCE KESTENBAUM, Clerk/Register

BY:



Deputy Clerk



Res. No. 24-047