

2024 State Legislative Priorities

IMPACT AREAS



Establish Tobacco
Retail Licensing



End Flavored
Tobacco Sales



Raise Prices &
Dedicate Funds to
Tobacco Prevention



Repeal Preemption

Tobacco use is a critical public health issue in Michigan. Addictive and dangerous products, including flavored e-cigarettes, menthol cigarettes, hookah, and chewing tobacco, continue to fuel the youth tobacco and nicotine problem and exacerbate health disparities. Contributing to this is the fact that the tobacco industry spends approximately \$298 million in Michigan each year to keep smokers addicted and to attract new, young customers.

Michigan lags behind other states when it comes to protecting kids and communities from the dangers of smoking and tobacco. We are committed to modernizing Michigan's tobacco laws and reducing the economic and human costs of tobacco use.

The Problem: Tobacco's Toll in Michigan

- Tobacco use kills 16,200 Michiganders each year - more than drug overdose, alcohol, auto accidents, murders, suicides, and HIV combined.
- Smoking-related annual health care costs in Michigan are \$5.33 billion.
- Smoking-related annual Medicaid costs in Michigan are \$1.46 billion.
- In 2022, 748 tobacco retailers failed an FDA compliance check (nearly 30%) and sold to kids. Michigan is consistently at the top of the list of states that receive the highest number of No Sales Orders from the FDA.
- Unlike alcohol and marijuana sales, Michigan retailers are not required to obtain a license to sell tobacco and nicotine, making effective enforcement almost impossible.

The Solution: Comprehensive Tobacco Prevention Policies

- Comprehensive policies are among the most effective strategies to prevent youth initiation of tobacco use, promote quitting, and eliminate tobacco-related disparities.
- For every dollar spent on tobacco prevention, Michigan will reduce tobacco-related health care spending by up to \$55.
- Reducing tobacco use helps Michigan businesses by decreasing costs due to lost productivity; smoking-related productivity losses in Michigan total \$11.5 billion annually.

Our Policy Priorities

- Ending the sale of all flavored tobacco products, including flavored e-cigarettes and menthol-flavored cigarettes. (Senate Bills 649 and 650, Cherry)
- Requiring tobacco retailers to be licensed, just like liquor retailers, so the state can enforce laws prohibiting the sale of tobacco to minors. (SBs 651 and 652, Singh)
- Taxing e-cigarettes and vaping products containing nicotine for the first time and increasing tobacco taxes with proceeds used to reduce tobacco use among youth. (SB 648, Chang)
- Allowing local counties and cities to enact tougher restrictions on tobacco sales within their own community. (SB 647, Shink)
- Repealing ineffective penalties that punish kids for tobacco purchase, use and possession. (SB 654, Wojno and SB 653, Cavanagh)