

IMPACT AREAS



**Establish Tobacco
Retail Licensing**



**End Flavored
Tobacco Sales**



**Increase Tobacco
Taxes**



Repeal Preemption

2023 State Legislative Priorities

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 vaping epidemic and exacerbate health disparities. Contributing to this is the fact 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 nicotine 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.
- Between June 1, 2021 and Nov 30, 2022, 462 of 1,478 tobacco retailers in Michigan failed an FDA compliance check 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 Control 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 Priorities

- Establish statewide Tobacco Retail Licensing (TRL) and repeal youth purchase, use and possession penalties.
- Prohibit the sale of flavored tobacco products including menthol cigarettes and e-cigarettes. 
- Establish a statewide excise tax on e-cigarettes and increase the tax on other tobacco products --like chewing tobacco-- to create tax parity with combustible cigarettes.
- Increase the tax rate on cigarettes, which has not been raised in nearly a decade.
- Repeal state preemption that prevents municipalities from enacting ordinances that regulate the sale and licensure of tobacco products.
- Increase the level of state funding for tobacco control and cessation efforts.