



November 16, 2015

Members of the Saint Paul City Council
15 W Kellogg Blvd #310
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Members of the Saint Paul City Council:

Congratulations on your leadership in introducing an ordinance that will protect youth from tobacco addiction. Restricting sales of flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco products shops and increasing the price of cheap cigars, is prudent action for you to be taking to protect youth. The Minnesota Cancer Alliance fully supports the ordinance you are considering and we urge you to take final action to adopt it.

The Minnesota Cancer Alliance (MCA) is committed to reducing the burden of cancer for all people living in Minnesota. We are a coalition of over 100 organizations from diverse backgrounds and disciplines dedicated to reducing the burden of cancer across the continuum; from prevention and detection, to treatment, survivorship, and end-of-life care.

Our members include Fairview Health Services, the Masonic Cancer Center at the U of M, the Mayo Clinic Cancer Center, Health Partners, Medica, Blue Cross Blue Shield of MN, the MN Breast Cancer Coalition, the MN Hospital Association, the MN Medical Association, Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, Park Nicollet Cancer Center, the MN Ovarian Cancer Alliance, and the MN Society for Clinical Oncology – to name just a few.

Cancer is the leading cause of death among Minnesotans and tobacco use is of course a very significant contributor to many forms of cancer. Inexpensive pricing and candy-like flavors serve as a way to get youth addicted to tobacco at a young age and ensure lifelong customers for the tobacco industry. The origin of tobacco-related cancers continues to be in the initiation of tobacco use among our youth and young adults, as well as a perpetuation of use in adulthood.

The Minnesota Cancer Alliance strongly supports the ordinance that has been proposed to you, as we believe it will contribute to a reduction in nicotine addiction, tobacco use rates, and therefore a reduction in disability and death associated with cancer. We hope you will support the proposed ordinance, and serve as an example for other Minnesota communities in our shared desire to reduce tobacco related cancers.

Sincerely,

Warren Larson
Chair

2014 STEERING COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Warren Larson
Sanford Health

VICE CHAIR: Ken Bence
Medica

Ruth Bachman
Individual Member

Anne Carlson
Colon Cancer Coalition

Jim Chase
Minnesota Community Measurement

Sarah Christensen
Mayo Clinic Cancer Center

Mari Damhof, R.N., O.N.C.
Coborn Cancer Center

Katie Engman
Association of NonSmokers-MN

DeAnna Finifrock, R.N., M.S.N., P.H.N.
Individual Member

Matt Flory
American Cancer Society

Thomas Flynn, M.D.
Minnesota Medical Association

Barbara Kunz, M.S., C.G.C.
Humphrey Cancer Center, North Memorial

DeAnn Lazovich, Ph. D
University of Minnesota, Masonic Cancer Center

Shelly Madigan
Minnesota Department of Health

Jeffrey Rank, M.D.
Minnesota Gastroenterology, P.A.

Kris Rhodes
American Indian Cancer Foundation

Cathy Skinner, MA
The Art of Well

Patrick Stieg
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota

Denise Blumberg-Tendle
Susan G. Komen for the Cure-MN Affiliate

Ann C. Vogel, M.D., M.S.
Individual Member

Dai Vu
Individual Member

Lindy Yokanovich, Esq.
Cancer Legal Line