



MINNESOTA ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS

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November 17, 2016

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

Dear Council President Stark and Members of the Saint Paul City Council:

I am writing on behalf of **the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP)** to express our support for the proposed ordinance that would restrict the sale of flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco shops. The MAFP represents more than 3,000 family physicians, family medicine residents and medical students in Minnesota and is the largest medical specialty organization in the state. We feel that reducing the number of stores in St. Paul that can carry candy and fruity flavored tobacco products will benefit our patients by keeping these harmful products away from youth in the community.

Flavored tobacco products are a leading health concern in St. Paul. Tobacco use is the leading cause of death and disease in the city. Flavored tobacco products are no safer than unflavored tobacco products. Research shows that youth believe these flavored products are less dangerous and less addictive, however, they are just as dangerous as cigarettes with the same health risks of cancer, heart disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Saint Paul has been a longtime leader when it comes to protecting the health and safety of our youth. We need to continue to do everything we can to protect the health of our young people. By taking these products out of stores youth visit daily, Saint Paul will help prevent another generation from becoming lifelong tobacco users. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

M. Tariq Fareed, M.D., President
Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians