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September 27, 2017

To: St. Paul City Council

From: Pat McKone, Regional Senior Director



Re: Support for restricting menthol tobacco to adult only tobacco stores

On behalf of the American Lung Association in Minnesota, I am writing to support the proposed policy restricting the sale of menthol tobacco products to adult only tobacco stores.

Menthol and other flavored tobacco products are a leading health concern in St. Paul and across the country. Tobacco remains the leading cause of death and disease, including almost 90% of all lung disease. Menthol and flavored products are popular with youth as evidenced by the data – 24.2% have tried flavored cigars, 18.4% shiha/hookah, and 28.4% flavored e-cigarettes.

The tobacco industry specifically targets communities of color, low-income and LGBTQ. It's no surprise that these communities are disproportionately impacted by tobacco.

Tobacco continues to be the leading cause of death and disease in our country and our state. It's policies like these that will support reducing that impact for future generations.

Thank you for your leadership on this important health issue.