

September 6th

Mayor Carter and Members of the Saint Paul City Council
Saint Paul City Hall
15 West Kellogg Blvd. #310
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Mayor Carter and Members of the Saint Paul City Council,

On behalf of the Harding High School Student Council, I'm writing in support of the proposed ordinance to increase the tobacco sales age from 18 to 21 in Saint Paul. The Student Council is a group of students who are dedicated to supporting a positive school climate, boosting school spirit, and maintaining service commitments amongst the school and community at large.

Raising the tobacco sales age to 21 is an effective strategy for reducing the burden of tobacco on our community and preventing future generations from a lifelong addiction. Our student group is concerned that youth tobacco use has increased in Minnesota for the first time in 17 years, largely due to e-cigarettes.

High school administrators all over the country are dealing with the explosive rise of students using e-cigarettes and popular devices such as JUUL in school. There is a serious public health concern for the nicotine addiction young people are facing by using these sneaky and popular devices. Increasing the gap between youth and those legally able to purchase tobacco products will help get e-cigarettes and other tobacco products out of the hands of our youth.

Thank you for your leadership in considering an ordinance that will protect youth in Saint Paul for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Kang Lou Chang

Genar

Bryan

Faith

Geoff Kengst

Wahing

Frankie

Dominic

Sho

Michelle Chen

Paulson
Darius

Sophomore Members of the Harding High School Student Council