



November 16, 2015

RE: Tobacco flavoring restrictions in St. Paul

Dear Saint Paul City Council and Mayor Chris Coleman:

I am writing today on behalf of Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES), a family service agency that supports Latinos to be healthy, prosperous, and engaged in the community. As members of the Saint Paul community, we urge you to support passing the proposal that removes flavored tobacco from stores accessible to youth and increases the price of little cigars and cigarillos, bringing us in line with the policies of our neighboring cities.

According to the Minnesota Department of Health, 102,100 Minnesota youth are projected to die from smoking. According to the 2010 Minnesota Student Survey, almost 30% of Hispanic 12th graders and almost 20% of Hispanic 9th graders reported using a tobacco product within the last 30 days. These high numbers can be explained by a variety of factors including industry targeting of advertisements in diverse neighborhoods with a high concentration of households of lower socioeconomic status. Cheap prices and easy accessibility of tobacco also play a role in our youth picking up these products. These industry tactics are paying off as too many of our young people are using, and becoming addicted to, this deadly product.

We hope that Saint Paul remains a leader in the state and assures that tobacco isn't the number one killer for another generation. Thank you for promoting the health of Saint Paul residents.

Sincerely,

Carla Kohler
Community Health Services Manager
Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicios – CLUES
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