



The Honorable Chris Coleman and the Saint Paul City Council
15 Kellogg Blvd. West, 390 City Hall
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Mayor Coleman and Council President Stark:

I am writing on behalf of Family Tree Clinic asking you to regulate menthol tobacco in the same way that Saint Paul regulates other flavored tobacco products. Family Tree has a long history of serving the Twin Cities LGBTQ community and is a main provider of health information to Saint Paul Public Schools' LGBTQ youth including tobacco prevention and education.

The tobacco industry has a long history of strategically targeting LGBTQ youth with menthol tobacco. Menthol is uniquely attractive to youth, as the taste masks the harsh flavor of tobacco. As a result, menthol tobacco is easier to start and harder to quit.

Saint Paul has already prohibited the sale of candy and fruit flavored tobacco products in stores where kids can enter. Now is the time to treat menthol tobacco products the same way that we treat other flavors. Saint Paul has been a longtime leader when it comes to protecting the health and safety of our youth. We hope the Saint Paul City Council considers taking action to protect our youth from these deadly products. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alissa Light

Executive Director