

Burger, Kathryn (CI-StPaul)

From: Heintz, Polly (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Tuesday, September 03, 2019 3:45 PM
To: Burger, Kathryn (CI-StPaul)
Subject: FW: Remove PUP Penalties in St. Paul's Ordinance

From: Sylvia Amos [<mailto:sylvia@stairstep.org>]
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 4:00 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Carter, Melvin (CI-StPaul) <Melvin.Carter@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Remove PUP Penalties in St. Paul's Ordinance

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Honorable Mayor Carter and City Council Representatives,

We all know that tobacco products kill half a million Americans each year and youth access to tobacco products compounds this problem because young people exposed to nicotine are particularly likely to become lifelong users. Increasing the tobacco sales age is not about punishing our youth, it's about protecting them from a lifetime of addiction.

The Stairstep Foundation urges you to remove PUP penalties from your tobacco sales policies. These penalties have not been proven to reduce youth tobacco use. PUP laws unfairly punish and stigmatize children, many of whom became addicted at a young age as a result of the tobacco industry's aggressive marketing to kids. PUP laws shift the blame away from the industry's irresponsible marketing to its victims. Penalizing children is not an effective strategy for reducing youth smoking and not the road responsible City Council Representatives should take.

There is clear consensus from national health organizations like the American Cancer Society and the American Heart Association that Tobacco 21 policies should eliminate these penalties. These organizations as well as Minnesotans for a Smoke-Free Generation oppose Tobacco 21 policies that include PUP penalties. Almost all of Minnesota's Tobacco 21 communities have not expanded PUP penalties beyond state law, concluding that it was best for their community to support a responsible retail environment rather than penalize youth.

Stairstep is a faith-based organization dedicated to improving the lives of our members and the broader community. Through our network of over 100 churches in St. Paul and Minneapolis, and Health Site Coordinators embedded in over 20+ churches, we have educated our community about the harms of tobacco use. As a respected organization in our community we strongly support removing PUP penalties from your tobacco sales policies.

Respectfully,
Dr. Sylvia Amos
Director of Programs
Stairstep Foundation
1404 14th Ave. No.
Minneapolis, Mn 55411