



October 18, 2021

Mayor Carter and City Councilmembers
Saint Paul City Council
15 Kellogg Blvd. West, 310 City Hall
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Mayor Carter and Councilmembers:

Thank you for considering the proposal to end the redemption of coupons and discounts for commercial tobacco and vaping products, set a minimum price per pack of cigarettes, and increase penalties for tobacco retailers in Saint Paul. These measures will help protect youth and other targeted communities from the addiction and health harms associated with commercial tobacco. Minnesota Cancer Alliance strongly supports action to adopt these policies.

The Minnesota Cancer Alliance (MCA) is committed to reducing the burden of cancer for all people living in Minnesota. We are a coalition of over 100 organizations from across the state dedicated to reducing the burden of cancer across the continuum: from prevention and detection, to treatment, survivorship, and end-of-life care. Our members include Medica, Fairview Health Services, Masonic Cancer Center at the University of Minnesota, Health Partners, American Indian Cancer Foundation, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota, Minnesota Medical Association and Mayo Clinic – to name just a few.

Commercial tobacco is the leading preventable cause of cancer, and cancer is the leading cause of death among Minnesotans. Price is the most effective tool in reducing commercial tobacco use in adults and preventing youth from starting. Studies have shown that increasing the price of tobacco products decreases tobacco use, especially among youth and low-income smokers, and helps current users quit. The tobacco industry knows this fact and uses marketing strategies like coupons and promotions to reduce prices, keep people using, and entice youth.

You have the opportunity to protect St. Paul's residents from the burdens of addiction and a myriad of cancers and other chronic diseases. Your leadership sets the example for others to follow. We support this ordinance and encourage you to adopt it. Thank you for your commitment to protect your community from the harms of commercial tobacco.

Sincerely,

Anne Snowden
Chair, Minnesota Cancer Alliance Steering Committee

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