

October 18, 2021

Saint Paul City Council
15 Kellogg Blvd. West, 310 City Hall
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Council President Amy Brendmoen and Saint Paul City Council Members:

My name is Mai Vue and I am writing on behalf of the Hmong Public Health Association (HPHA). We stand with the Saint Paul City Council's proposed ordinance to regulate price discounting of commercial tobacco products in Saint Paul.

HPHA is a national association of Hmong public health professionals. Many of our members are residents or have family in Saint Paul. While our mission is to provide support and spaces for Hmong public health professionals to grow and network, we also have a shared value of protecting the health and wellbeing of the youth, adults, and elders in our community.

As public health professionals, we recognize the urgent need for effective and community-led tobacco prevention policies targeted at protecting community health. In the last two decades, Minnesota has made great strides in decreasing tobacco use and supporting tobacco cessation. However, tobacco continues to be a leading cause of preventable death in Minnesota and disproportionately impacts our youth, communities of color, LGBTQ people, and low-income communities due to aggressive tobacco industry targeting.

The tobacco industry uses price discounting strategies like coupons and in-store price promotions to lower the prices of tobacco products. This is problematic because studies have shown that tobacco coupons and discounts make it more likely for young people to start smoking and hinder current smokers' attempts to quit. We stand in solidarity with grassroots organizations, Saint Paul community members, advocates, and public health champions who work tirelessly to protect their community from the tobacco industry.

The City Council is taking a strong and bold step in the right direction of public health. We at HPHA are excited to see a more tobacco-free community in Saint Paul and hope to support in any way we can to meet this goal. Please vote **YES** to regulate price discounting of commercial tobacco products in Saint Paul.

Sincerely,



Mai Vue, MPH
HPHA Chair



Sammy Saykao, MPH
HPHA Co-Chair