



TOWN OF WARE
Drug Free Communities Director
126 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082
413-967-9648 x100

10/28/2024

Dear Belchertown Board of Health,

As the Drug Free Communities Director for the Town of Ware and the convener of the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance, I am writing in support of the Tobacco-Free Generation policy. One incredible tenet of public health is that reducing access to any given thing goes hand in hand with reducing use. I am using the word “incredible” because even small steps to reducing access to tobacco can have major impacts on reducing use and with this reduction of use comes significant health benefits. It’s a powerful tool for public health professionals and their community partners. Any way we can reduce access to harmful substances is doing a service to our fellow community members.

Voting yes to put this policy into place will reduce access to tobacco products in a significant way. Prevention specialists work hard to reduce access to harmful substances, and this policy does exactly that. This reduction in access will likely reduce the use of these products and thus curb nicotine addiction in your community. This vote will make your community healthier.

Thank you for your consideration and thoughtfulness.

Rebecca Edwards

Rebecca Edwards (she/her)
Drug Free Communities Program Director
redwards@townofware.com