

Crete, Andrea

From: Edwards, Rebecca
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2024 3:40 PM
To: Crete, Andrea
Subject: Letter Draft

Hi Andrea,

In advance of any additional info, I'm sharing a draft of the letter of support with you. Let me know if there is anything specific you would like me to add.

Thanks!
Rebecca

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 so hard to reduce youth access to harmful substances, but we have far fewer ways to reach emerging and full-fledged adults through our policies. This policy is an innovative way to restrict adult access to the harmful chemicals and addictive properties of tobacco products. 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 (she/her)
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Town of Ware and the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance
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