

May 27, 2025

To the Dover Board of Health:

I'm writing to voice my concern that the Board is considering a Nicotine Free Generation (NFG) Policy. NFG bylaws are nothing more than de facto prohibition targeting legal aged adults. In Massachusetts, the legal age of purchase for nicotine products is 21. Combine that with the fact Dover retailers are our only line of defense against the consumption of nicotine products by kids, and this policy makes no sense.

NFG will put store clerks in precarious situations. They'd sell a 12-pack of beer and a tin of Zyn to a 25-year-old and then have to tell the 24-year-old behind him she can purchase the beer can't buy nic pouches. Would you like that assignment?

I've heard NFG advocates claim young people are tempted by flavored products. The fact is flavored nicotine products have been illegal in Massachusetts since 2020. You won't find them in Dover stores.

There have been discussions at health board meetings about nicotine pouches. This is concerning. Pouches are already age restricted (and unflavored, by law). I have adult friends who are using nicotine pouches to transition from chewing tobacco or cigarettes. Take pouches out of Dover stores and my friends will buy them somewhere else. What does Dover gain from that?

Nobody wants young people to develop a nicotine habit. That's why I support the legal age of purchase being 21. But I draw the line at depriving adults of their freedom of choice.

I urge the Board of Health to leave off considering NFG and any potential restrictions on nicotine pouches.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Heischuber', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Benjamin Heischuber
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