

From "Jason Belmonte"
<jbelmonte@doverma.gov>
To "Emily Wieja" <ewieja@gmail.com>
Date 2025-02-28 12:42:41+00:00
Subject Re: Oppose the Generational Tobacco Ban

Hi Emily,

Thank you for reaching out. We are simply engaging in discussion on it at this point and have not made any decisions or proposed anything just yet, but I appreciate you sharing. I will pass this along to my Board members and I would also encourage you to attend our meeting Monday evening (3/3) if you would like to make a comment on the matter. Thanks again, have a great weekend.

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Health Director
Town of Dover, MA
603-285-2915

On Fri, Feb 28, 2025 at 6:50 AM Emily Wieja <ewieja@gmail.com> wrote:

To the Dover Board of Health, Board of Selectmen, and Town Administrator,

My name is Emily Wieja, and I live in Cambridge, MA. I feel I have to write to you in opposition to the Generational Tobacco Ban (Nicotine Free Generation Proposal). I know that paid tobacco control activists have coordinated this policy proposal, and it will continue to be raised in different communities and towns in Massachusetts. If I do not oppose the proposal now, it will be proposed in Cambridge next.

I oppose this policy because it proposes restricting adults' freedom to choose for themselves. Massachusetts has already raised the legal age to purchase tobacco products to 21, the same age to buy alcohol. There is no need to increase the legal age further.

Do we, in Massachusetts, believe that it is the place of public health to place bans on things like alcohol, marijuana, and gambling? These are all choices that we've seen fit to allow adult consumers to make for themselves. If we place a ban on the ability to purchase tobacco and other nicotine-containing products, we are saying it is ok to dictate adult lifestyle choices, and there will be no end to it.

I also want to mention the negative consequences that will result. Adult and teen smoking rates are at an all-time low, but this will lead to a needless increase in black market crime, increased cost of enforcement and policing, inequitable enforcement, and loss of convenience store revenue.

Are we going to control what adults do to this extent? I ask you not to consider this policy. It might be helpful for you also to consider that recently, the Peabody MA Board of Health voted against this proposal and decided not to enact it.

Best wishes,