

From "Jason Belmonte" <jbelmonte@doverma.gov>
To "Stephen Helfer" <shelfer@gmail.com>
Cc BOH@doverma.gov; mdisciullo@doverma.gov;
mblanchard@doverma.gov
Date 2025-10-30 18:05:38+00:00
Subject Re: GENERATIONAL TOBACCO & NICOTINE PROHIBITION

Received. Thank you.

Jason Belmonte, R.S, CHO, CP-FS
Health Director
Town of Dover, MA
603-285-2915

On Thu, Oct 30, 2025 at 2:04 PM Stephen Helfer <shelfer@gmail.com> wrote:

To the Dover BOH, Board of Selectmen, and Administrator Blanchard:

Please do not enact a Generational Tobacco & Nicotine Ban. It is prohibition by stealth.

- 1) Immigrants of color own most of the stores that sell tobacco & nicotine products. Such a prohibition might not close their businesses, but it would significantly hurt & devalue them.
- 2) Although proponents say this ban is for the young, the CDC reports that the teenage smoking rate is at a 25-year low. According to the FDA, the youth vaping rate is at a 10-year low & their use of nicotine pouches "remains low." If the tobacco industry is trying to attract the young, it is not succeeding. A Generational Tobacco & Nicotine Ban does not affect youth. It limits the autonomy of adults.
- 3) Massachusetts residents 21 & over are deemed competent to use their judgment when it comes to alcohol and marijuana--both intoxicants. They are at least equally competent, and do not need to be prohibited from, making their own decisions regarding tobacco & nicotine. Neither of which impairs judgment or compromises driving ability. Thank you.

Stephen Helfer
Cambridge Citizens for Smokers' Rights
(We receive no funding from any source)

Sources:

"Cigarette smoking reached the lowest level ever recorded by the survey, with only 1.4% of students reporting current use in 2024."

CDC Newsroom, Oct. 17, 2024

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2024/p1017-youth-tobacco-use.html>

"Youth E-Cigarette Use Drops to Lowest Level in a Decade: Youth Use of Nicotine Pouches Remains Low"

FDA News Release, Sept. 5, 2024

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/youth-e-cigarette-use-drops-lowest-level-decade>

"[N]icotine does not disturb consciousness, impair judgement or social behaviour and, if anything, it enhances rather than impairs cognitive and psychomotor performance and the capacity to work. "

Professor Michael Russell, British Journal of Addiction, 1991

<https://clivebates.com/the-genius-of-michael-russell-more-right-than-ever/>