

From "Jason Belmonte" <jbelmonte@doverma.gov>
To "Stephen Helfer" <shelfer@gmail.com>
Cc mdisciullo@doverma.gov; mblanchard@doverma.gov
Date 2025-05-12 12:39:21+00:00
Subject Re: PLEASE NO GENERATIONAL TOBACCO & NICOTINE
BAN

Thanks Stephen. You are welcome to join us this evening if you would like to speak on the matter.

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

On Sat, May 10, 2025 at 4:51 PM Stephen Helfer <shelfer@gmail.com> wrote:

To the Dover Board of Health, Selectmen, & Administrator:

On September 5, 2024 the FDA reported that teen smoking is at an all-time low & teen vaping is at a ten-year low. On January 16 of this year, the FDA authorized, "after extensive scientific review," 20 kinds of nicotine pouches for adults & announced that teen use remains low. If the tobacco industry is trying to attract youth, it is not succeeding.

Teens are not using these products & retailers are fined if they sell to persons under 21. A Generational Tobacco & Nicotine Ban will not affect youth--it will limit adult freedom.

Adults 21 & over in Massachusetts may use their judgment whether to consume alcohol & marijuana--both intoxicants. Shouldn't they be free to do so regarding tobacco & nicotine, which enhance cognition, memory.& motor skills, like driving?

The majority of stores selling nicotine & tobacco are owned by immigrants of color. A Generational Tobacco & Nicotine Ban would hurt and devalue their businesses.
Please do not enact this form of stealth prohibition.

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

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

FDA, October 17, 2024

<https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/ctp-newsroom/youth-tobacco-product-use-25-year-low-yet-disparities-persist>

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

FDA, Sept 5, 2024

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