



October 11, 2024

Town of Concord
Health Department/Board of Health
141 Keyes Rd
Concord, MA 01742

Dear Concord Board of Health Members,

On behalf of Emerson Health, I am writing to share our support of the proposed "Tobacco-Free Generation (TFG)" policy to prevent the sale of tobacco to anyone born on or after January 1, 2024. We strongly encourage Concord to adopt this policy. As a leading healthcare provider in the region, our mission is to care for our community. We fully endorse efforts to safeguard our youth and make Concord a healthier place to live, work, and play.

I applaud the Board of Health for considering robust regulations that will protect our youth and reduce the availability of tobacco products. Data shows that early tobacco use is a strong predictor of tobacco use in adulthood. According to the American Cancer Society, almost 90 percent of adult cigarette smokers experimented with tobacco before the age of 18. The TFG policy will promote the health of our community by reducing substance use through prevention. Staying tobacco-free can help lower the risk of chronic diseases associated with tobacco use, such as cancer, pulmonary disease, and cardiovascular disease.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate the work you do to promote the health of all residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine C. Schuster". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Christine Schuster, RN, MBA
President & CEO
Emerson Health