



Hopkinton Organizing for Prevention Nicotine Free Generation

To the Members of the Hopkinton Board of Health,

Hopkinton Organizing for Prevention (HOP) is a community-based coalition dedicated to preventing youth substance use and promoting wellness. Founded in 2015 in response to the opioid crisis, HOP has grown into a strong, multisector coalition representing youth, parents, schools, businesses, law enforcement, healthcare, local government, faith-based groups, civic organizations, and others committed to prevention. Our mission is to collaboratively prevent youth substance use by providing resources, education, and support that build resilience and promote well-being across our community.

We are writing to express our full support for the Nicotine-Free Generation policy—a proactive and forward-thinking initiative that aligns with our values and mission. By preventing early nicotine use, this policy supports lifelong health and helps protect Hopkinton youth from long-term addiction and chronic illness.

Insights gleaned from the 2023 Metrowest Adolescent Health Survey and the voices of youth in recent Hopkinton Middle School and High School focus groups underscore nicotine use is starting at younger ages. This trend elevates the risk of substance use disorders and heightens susceptibility to chronic ailments such as cancer, heart disease, and respiratory disorders.

The science is clear—vaping during adolescence can disrupt brain development, cause respiratory health hazards and lead to long-term addiction. Youth-focused marketing and affordable product pricing only make these harmful products more accessible. The Nicotine-Free Generation policy is a critical step toward changing that trajectory.

By championing the Nicotine-Free Generation initiative, we signal our unwavering commitment to safeguarding the health and future of our children. We stand poised to take proactive measures to ensure that our youth grow up in an environment free from the influence of nicotine. As a coalition, our mandate extends to safeguarding all aspects of our youth's lives, including shielding them from the harmful effects of nicotine.

This policy resonates deeply with our mission of promoting health and enhancing the quality of life for all Hopkinton residents. We urge the Board of Health to endorse this policy and stand with us in prioritizing the health and future of Hopkinton's youth. Together, we can take meaningful action to prevent addiction, promote wellness, and ensure that every young person in Hopkinton has the opportunity to thrive.

Sincerely,

Coalition Coordinator, Erin Bartolini and the Members of Hopkinton Organizing for Prevention



Members of Hopkinton Organizing for Prevention:
