



**Re: An Act to create a nicotine free generation**

Chairpersons and Members of the Joint Committee on Public Health,

My name is Hannah Koepper, and I am writing on behalf of the Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR), a statewide Recovery Community Organization (RCO) that has served as a primary source of recovery awareness and education since 1991. MOAR organizes recovering individuals, families, and friends into a collective voice to educate the public about the value of recovery from alcohol and other addictions—including tobacco and nicotine dependence.

We write today in strong support of S.1568, An Act to Create a Nicotine-Free Generation. This bill takes a bold and proactive step toward protecting future generations from the well-documented and deadly consequences of tobacco and nicotine addiction by prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to anyone born on or after January 1, 2006.

As a recovery community, we uphold a vision that supports health, healing, and freedom from all forms of addiction. Tobacco use continues to be a leading cause of preventable death and disease in Massachusetts and across the country. The evidence is conclusive: smoking causes cancer, respiratory and cardiac illness, and numerous other chronic health problems. It also affects birth outcomes and contributes to serious health inequities.

At MOAR, we believe prevention is a critical part of the recovery continuum. S.1568 aligns with this vision by creating structural barriers to addiction before it can take root. This legislation represents a public health strategy rooted in long-term thinking and community well-being.

We recognize that people living with nicotine addiction deserve compassion, support, and access to treatment—not shame or punishment. As we work to prevent tobacco use among future generations, we also urge continued investment in cessation services for those already struggling with nicotine dependence. Prevention and recovery must go hand in hand.

MOAR is proud to support policies that contribute to a healthier, more equitable Massachusetts. We thank the sponsors of this bill for their leadership and urge the Legislature to advance S.1568 in support of a nicotine-free generation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Hannah Koepper  
Director of Policy and Communications  
Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR)