
Fw: GENERATIONAL TOBACCO & NICOTINE PROHIBITION

From Lewis, Barry <BLewis@yarmouth.ma.us>

Date Mon 12/1/2025 4:18 PM

To Provos, Sara <SProvos@yarmouth.ma.us>; Niederberger, Riley <RNiederberger@yarmouth.ma.us>

Still more

From: Florio, Mary Alice <MFlorio@yarmouth.ma.us>

Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 4:11 PM

To: Post, Tracy <TPost@yarmouth.ma.us>; McGurrin, Dorcas <DMcGurrin@yarmouth.ma.us>; Forest, Mark <MForest@yarmouth.ma.us>; Flynn, Joyce <JFlynn@yarmouth.ma.us>; Argo, Liz <EArgo@yarmouth.ma.us>

Cc: Whritenour, Robert <RWhritenour@yarmouth.ma.us>; Amy Frigulietti <AFrigulietti@yarmouth.ma.us>; Lewis, Barry <BLewis@yarmouth.ma.us>

Subject: FW: GENERATIONAL TOBACCO & NICOTINE PROHIBITION

-----Original Message-----

From: Stephen Helfer <shelfer@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 4:04 PM

To: Lewis, Barry <BLewis@yarmouth.ma.us>; Selectboard <Selectboard@yarmouth.ma.us>; Whritenour, Robert <RWhritenour@yarmouth.ma.us>

Subject: GENERATIONAL TOBACCO & NICOTINE PROHIBITION

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To the Board of Health, Select Board, & Administrator Whritenour

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

1) Immigrants of color own most of the stores selling tobacco & nicotine products. This prohibition may not close their businesses, but it would hurt & devalue them. Brookline merchants Elias Audy & Fahad Iqbal saw overall sales declines after the town imposed this ban. The ability to earn a living is a matter of public health.

2) Although proponents say this ban is for the young, the CDC reports that teenage smoking is at a 25-year low. According to the FDA, youth vaping is at a 10-year low & their nicotine pouch use "remains low."

If the tobacco industry is trying to attract youth, it is not succeeding. A Generational Tobacco & Nicotine Ban does not affect youth--it affects those over 21 only.

Adult smoking too is at an 80-year low. The CDC notes on its website that, two of every three adults who ever started smoking have quit.

3) Massachusetts residents 21 & over are deemed competent to use their judgment regarding alcohol and marijuana--both intoxicants. They need not be prohibited to use their judgment when it comes to tobacco & nicotine--neither of which impairs judgment or compromises driving ability.

4) Although today's smoking rate is a fraction of what it was in the 1970s, the nation's per capita yearly medical expenditure, in inflation-adjusted dollars, has increased sevenfold.

Stephen Helfer (617) 876-2457
Cambridge Citizens for Smokers' Rights
(We receive no funding from any source whatsoever)

Sources:

Elias Audy owns Village Mobil. He has seen a 5% to 8% reduction in sales of gas, cigarettes, and other store items & expects to see a continued reduction of sales. "Sunny" Iqbal owns a gas station & a convenience store. Since COVID he saw a 30% drop in overall store revenue and lost many customers born after 2000, Brookline News, Oct. 26, 2023 <https://brookline.news/brooklines-tobacco-free-generation-law-facing-challenge-in-mas-highest-court/>

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>

Cigarette Smoking Rate in U.S. Ties 80-Year Low

Gallup, August 13, 2024

<https://news.gallup.com/poll/648521/cigarette-smoking-rate-ties-year-low.aspx>

Nicotine does not disturb consciousness, impair judgement or social behavior 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/>

Nearly 2 in 3 adults who have ever smoked cigarettes have quit.

CDC, Smoking Cessation: Fast Facts, Sept.17, 2024

<https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/php/data-statistics/smoking-cessation/index.html>

On a per capita basis, health spending has increased from \$2,151 per year in 1970 to \$14,570 per year in 2023 (in constant 2023 dollars).

Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker

<https://www.healthsystemtracker.org/chart-collection/u-s-spending-healthcare-changed-time/#Total%20national%20health%20expenditures,%>