

Dear Chair and Members of the Yarmouth Board of Health & respective town members.

My name is Vishal Shukla, I own two stores here in Yarmouth. I've been doing business in this town since 2000, These stores are how I support my family.

- Nicotine Free Generation laws are unnecessary. We have existing laws and resources in place that have worked, and adult and youth smoking rates are at an all-time low.
- Congress, the FDA, and the Massachusetts state legislature saw fit to raise the legal age to purchase tobacco products to 21, the same age to purchase alcohol. There simply is no need to raise the legal age further.
- Nicotine-Free Generation policies are an infringement on personal freedoms and individual choice. 21 is the legal age for tobacco, alcohol, cannabis, and sports gaming. Adults should have the freedom to make their own decisions on tobacco and nicotine just as they do with other adult-restricted products.
- This policy will result in store clerks selling tobacco or nicotine products to one legal-aged adult, only to deny it to another legal-aged adult standing next in line. This could lead to confrontational and potentially dangerous scenarios for store clerks.
- The end result will be a significant cross border sales increase with an equally large sales decrease for retailers in this town. This is not the right thing to do because retailers have a history of preventing the sale of tobacco and nicotine products to minors.
- Massachusetts has already banned the sale of flavored tobacco and nicotine products. Increasing the legal age even further through a nicotine-free generation policy is unnecessary.
- I urge you to vote against this nicotine-free generation policy, which would prohibit the sale of tobacco and vapor products to anyone born on or after a certain date. Restricting the free choices of legal products to adults is fundamentally wrong

In addition, I would like to share my opposition to a Nicotine Free Generation policy for Yarmouth. The state law in Massachusetts sets the legal age for buying tobacco at 21.

So, I'm asking that you do not adopt Nicotine Free Generation or any restrictions on the sale of unflavored nicotine pouches in Yarmouth. Instead, let's continue to treat adults as responsible individuals and protect local businesses at the same time.

Sincerely,

**Vishal Shukla
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