

RE: FIGHT FLAVORED TOBACCO IN MARYLAND- SUPPORT SB 177/ HB 134

We, the undersigned faith organizations and leaders, understand the harmful effects of *selling flavored tobacco products in Maryland*. We see the results in the disproportionate numbers of Black and Brown residents who have died from tobacco-related illnesses and the luring of children with flavored products.

Today, one in four Maryland high school students currently use e-cigarettes and Black men are more likely to be diagnosed with and die of lung cancer than any other demographic group in Maryland.

As faith leaders, we have the moral obligation to ensure that our elected officials act in the best interest of the communities that we serve. We ask that the Maryland General Assembly act quickly to ensure future generations don't become addicted to these dangerous products.

We strongly support Senate Bill 177 and House Bill 134 and ask that these bills are passed without amendments. Passage of a clean bill will prevent the type of regulatory loopholes Big Tobacco has exploited for decades. We have reached a point in history where we must take direct action and not let pressing issues linger.

The Faith & Community Against Flavored Tobacco Coalition's mission is to stop Big Tobacco from targeting Maryland's children and Black and Brown communities.

To protect the health and futures of Maryland's youth, we must end the sale of **all** flavored tobacco products in Maryland. Urge Maryland legislators to vote yes on SB 177 and HB 134.

In service of the community,

Imam Derrick Amin, Muslim Chaplain
Morgan State University

Imam Earl El-Amin, Resident Imam
Muslim Community Cultural Center of Baltimore

Imam Aquil Ingram, Resident Imam
Masjid Al Ihsan

Ellen Aubee, Nurture Committee
Mt. Hope Union UMC

Pastor Lawrence Barbour

Pastor Wallis Baxter III, Senior Pastor
Second Baptist Church Southwest

Jennifer Boston, Nurture Chairperson
Mt. Hope Union UMC

Pastor Ron Bragg, Senior Pastor
Life Covenant Christian Ministries

Pastor LaReese M. Brooks, Senior Pastor
Truth, Righteous and Love (TRL) Ministry

Pastor Lincoln M. Burruss, Jr., Senior Pastor
Central Baptist Church of Camp Springs

Rabbi Daniel Cotzin Burg, Alexander Grass Rabbinic Chair
Beth Am Synagogue

Rabbi Andrew Busch, Baltimore Hebrew Congregation
President, Baltimore Jewish Council

Pastor Charles Bynum II, Senior Pastor
Cornerstone Baptist Community Church

Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin
Baltimore County

Pastor Victor Coleman, Senior Pastor
Temple Hills Church of God

Dr. Derrick Dewitt, President
Clergy United for the Transformation of Sandtown

Pastor Harold Lafayette Dugger, Sr., Senior Pastor
First Baptist Church of Capitol Heights

Rev Leslye Dwight, Executive Director
Mighty Fortress Ministries

Pastor Frankey D. Grayton, Senior Pastor
Southern Friendship Baptist Church

Rev. George C. Gilbert, Jr., Civic and Social Actions Committee, Chair
Missionary Baptist Ministers' Conference, Washington D.C and Vicinity

Rabbi Joshua Gruenberg, Senior Rabbi
Chizuk Amuno Congregation and Schools

Elder Clyde.W. Harris, Vice President
Clergy United for the Transformation of Sandtown

Rev. James F. Harris, Moderator
Potomac River Baptist Association

Rev. Dr. Alvin Hathaway Sr, Senior Pastor
Union Baptist Church

Pastor Akisha S. Jefferson
First Sunday's

Pastor Dwayne Jones, Senior Pastor
Spread the News Church of God in Christ

Pastor James Jones, Jr., Senior Pastor
Antioch Baptist Church

Pastor Victor Kirk, Senior Pastor
Sharon Bible Fellowship Church

Rabbi Sachs-Kohen
Baltimore Hebrew Congregation

Rev. Tony Lee, Sr., Senior Pastor
Community of Hope AME Church

Howard Libit, Executive Director
Baltimore Jewish Council

Rev. Kobi Little, Dean
Justice Chapel
Political Action Chairman, NAACP Maryland

Rev. Grey Maggiano, Rector
Memorial Episcopal Church

Pastor Roderick McClanahan, Senior Pastor
First Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor Marvin McKenstry Jr., Senior Pastor

Victory House Worship Center

Pastor Charles McNeil, Senior Pastor
Unity Baptist Church

Imam Mutee Mulazim, Resident Imam
Al-Inshirah Peace Center

Pastor Timothy Proctor, Senior Pastor
Prayer and Praise Ministries

Pastor Darin Poullard, Senior Pastor
Ft. Washington Baptist Church

Denise Reid, Chaplain
Baltimore Police Department

Minister Vicki Rideout, Associate Minister
New Psalmist Baptist Church

Pastor Rodney Ruffin, Senior Pastor
Elim Baptist Church

Warren Savage, Senior Pastor
Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church

Pastor Nathaniel Thomas, Senior Pastor
Forestville New Redeemer Baptist Church

Pastor Corey Thompson, Senior Pastor
City of Joy Baptist Church

Min Ryan Turner, Associate Minister
New Psalmist Baptist Church

Bishop Lanier Twyman, Senior Pastor
St. Stephens Baptist Church

Bishop Lisa Weah, Senior Pastor
New Bethlehem Baptist Church

Pastor Charles Whitaker, Senior Pastor
River of Life Church

Bishop Robert White, Senior Pastor
New Hope Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Stacey Cole Wilson, Executive Minister of Social Justice
United Methodist Church, Baltimore-Washington Conference

Rev. Dr. S. Todd Yeary, Esq.
Douglas Memorial Community Church