

1602 Appleton Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21217

January 25, 2021

Testimony on SB177 / HB 134
Fight Flavored Tobacco in Maryland

Position: Favorable

The purpose of this letter is to support SB 177/HHB 134. This legislation will end the sale of all flavored tobacco products in Maryland. This will include electronic smoking devices, menthol cigarettes, flavored cigars, and smokeless tobacco. I urge passage of this bill without amendments, free from the type of regulatory loopholes Big Tobacco has exploited for decades.

Flavored tobacco products lure children into a life-long struggle with deadly addiction, hooking them on products in flavors like minty menthol, glazed donuts, gummy bear and cotton candy. We know that for decades, the tobacco industry has targeted Black and Brown communities with their predatory marketing of flavored tobacco products, namely menthol cigarettes, resulting in a disproportionate burden of tobacco-related disease and death. African Americans are more likely to die from tobacco-related causes than any other race or ethnic group.

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

In partnership,

Margaret Powell

40th District