



MARYLAND CITIZENS' HEALTH INITIATIVE

2600 ST. PAUL STREET BALTIMORE, MD 21218

P: (410) 235-9000

F: (410) 235-8963

WWW.HEALTHCAREFORALL.COM

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 177  
BEFORE THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Catherine Kirk Robins, Deputy Director of the Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative, Inc.

January 28, 2021

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee, I am writing to you on behalf of the Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative in support of Senate Bill 177 (SB 177). Tobacco use and its deadly impacts are nothing short of an epidemic, and we thank you for your consideration of this lifesaving legislation.

For decades, Big Tobacco has targeted Black and brown communities with their predatory marketing of flavored tobacco products, particularly menthol. Flavored tobacco is also heavily marketed towards children in an effort to establish life-long nicotine addictions. With over 15,000 products on the market, flavored tobacco poses a direct risk to the well-being of Maryland residents and the health of future generations, and it is critical that we take action.

Under the leadership of the General Assembly, Maryland has taken innovative and proactive steps to improve the health and well-being of our residents. We urge you to support the passage of SB 177, as a clean bill, to continue this tradition and prevent unnecessary future suffering caused by tobacco use.