

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

Jennifer Boston, Nurture Chairperson
Mt. Hope Union UMC

Pastor Ron Bragg, Senior Pastor
Life Covenant Christian Ministries

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

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

Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin
Baltimore County

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

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

Elder Clyde.W. Harris, Vice President
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Rev. Dr. Alvin Hathaway Sr, Senior Pastor
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Rabbi Sachs-Kohen
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Howard Libit, Executive Director
Baltimore Jewish Council

Rev. Grey Maggiano, Rector
Memorial Episcopal Church

Imam Mutee Mulazim, Resident Imam
Al-Inshirah Peace Center

Denise Reid, Chaplain
Baltimore Police Department

Minister Vicki Rideout, Associate Minister
New Psalmist Baptist Church

Warren Savage, Senior Pastor
Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church

Min Ryan Turner, Associate Minister
New Psalmist Baptist Church

Bishop Lisa Weah, Senior Pastor
New Bethlehem 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