



MDDCSAM is the Maryland state chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine whose members are physicians and other health providers who treat people with substance use disorders.

HB 1180 Cigarettes, Other Tobacco Products, and Electronic Smoking Devices - Revisions (Tobacco Retail Modernization Act of 2024)

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS House Economic Matters Committee February 20, 2024

MDDCSAM strongly supports the enhanced tobacco product placement and age verification provisions, the additional licensure requirement for the manufacture, distribution or sale of electronic smoking devices, and the prohibition of pharmacy sales of tobacco products and electronic smoking devices. Each of these provisions will reduce tobacco use and use disorder among youth and adults. Tobacco and e-smoking device are inherently dangerous products **to which most customers become addicted. *Most long-term tobacco product users wish they could quit.***

Tobacco use is **one of the leading causes of preventable death and disease in the U.S.**

We strongly support an amendment to remove the age exemption for active-duty military which conflicts with federal law. In 2019, federal legislation eliminated the military exemption to the prohibition of tobacco sales and related products to people under age 21. This bill will bring Maryland in alignment with federal law, and will save lives.

According to a Philip Morris internal document dated January 21, 1986, "Raising the legal minimum age for cigarette purchaser to 21 could gut our key young adult market (age 17-20) ..."

(<https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/what-we-do/us/sale-age-21>)

Young people serving in the military deserve to have their health preserved as much as others in their age group. Historically, smoking rates have been particularly high among those serving in the military. Veterans Administration hospitals have been known for a high proportion of patients with tobacco-caused diseases such as chronic lung disease, heart disease, cancer in various organs, stroke, peripheral vascular disease, amputations, and other manifestations of tobacco addiction.

We also support an amendment to allow local health departments to assist in enforcing youth access provisions such as product placement and age verification, and other provisions of the law.

We are pleased to support, with amendments, this important legislation which will improve the lives of youth and adults for decades to come.

Respectfully,

Joseph A. Adams, MD, FASAM, board certified in internal medicine and addiction medicine