



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Chairman C.T. Wilson  
Economic Matters Committee  
House Office, Room 230  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Wilson and Esteemed Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

HB844 is a vital public health measure aimed at improving access to nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) and empowering Marylanders to break free from the grip of smoking addiction. This legislation represents a common-sense approach to addressing the profound impact of tobacco use on our state.

Each year, smoking exacts a heavy toll, claiming the lives of approximately 7,500 Marylanders and burdening our healthcare system with staggering costs totaling \$3.14 billion. These statistics underscore the pressing need for decisive action.

Of particular concern is the disproportionate harm inflicted by smoking on low-income and marginalized communities, where access to cessation resources is often limited. HB844 recognizes this inequity and proposes a solution.

By mandating certain tobacco retailers to stock and offer NRT products, this bill seeks to broaden the availability of affordable cessation aids in communities hardest hit by smoking-related illnesses. By placing NRT products alongside tobacco items, we can significantly bolster quit rates, providing vital support to those striving to overcome addiction and safeguarding the health and well-being of all Marylanders, irrespective of their socioeconomic status.

Research consistently demonstrates the efficacy of NRT products in aiding smoking cessation, nearly doubling the likelihood of success. Moreover, by facilitating immediate access to NRT products where tobacco is sold, we can alleviate withdrawal symptoms and bolster quit rates, potentially increasing success rates from 50% to 70%.

For these reasons, I strongly urge a favorable report on HB844.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian Boafo'.

Delegate Adrian Boafo