

Minnesota Public Health Association Resolution

Addressing Public Health Concerns Regarding New Tobacco and Nicotine Products 2010

WHEREAS, more than 5,500 people in Minnesota die of tobacco-related diseases every year;¹ and

WHEREAS, tobacco use results in more than \$2 billion annually in excess health care costs;¹ and

WHEREAS, an estimated 85,000 public middle and high school students use tobacco products in Minnesota;² and

WHEREAS, the tobacco industry spends \$196.6 million in Minnesota each year marketing its deadly products, with significant resources dedicated to targeting teens;¹ and

WHEREAS, the tobacco industry is developing and promoting new tobacco and nicotine products that appeal to teens and young adults and can be used in smoke-free environments;¹ and

WHEREAS, there are current loopholes in the taxing and fees of tobacco products including “youth friendly” candy flavored little cigars;³ and

WHEREAS, there are an increased number of smokeless tobacco and nicotine products being test-marketed which are not covered by youth access laws³ and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Public Health Association has supported resolutions (1986, 1989, 1993, 1998) in the past to restrict the sale and use of tobacco products by minors, prevent illegal sales and limit access, and support increases in tobacco taxes.⁴

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Public Health Association support legislation to modernize existing Minnesota tobacco laws, reduce tax evasion and reduce youth access to tobacco and nicotine products including:

1. Classify “little cigars” as cigarettes, subjecting them to existing regulations applicable to cigarettes,
2. Ensure that new tobacco products are covered by existing regulation, such as not allowing them to be sold on the counter next to candy and gum, and
3. Prohibit the sale of e-cigarettes to youth, which are electronic nicotine delivery devices that simulate smoking.

References

¹ Unfiltered: A Revealing Look at Today’s Tobacco Industry, ClearWay Minnesota. Retrieved from <http://www.clearwaymn.org>. Full unfiltered report. pp. 4 (2010) Accessed 03/17/10.

² Teens and Tobacco in Minnesota, the View from 2008: Results from the Minnesota Youth Tobacco and Asthma Survey, Minnesota Department of Health. (2007). pp. 3. Retrieved from <http://health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/tobacco/.pdf>. Accessed 03/17/09.

³ “Tobacco Products for the 21st Century/Tobacco Modernization and Compliance Act of 2010”, flyer produced by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota, American Health Association, ClearWay Minnesota, Association for Non-Smokers—Minnesota, American Lung Association and the American Cancer Society (2010).

⁴ Minnesota Public Health Association. *Minnesota Public Health Association Resolution Handbook 1974-2009*, Revised March 2010: pp 24-29.