

# Keep MI Kids Tobacco Free

ALLIANCE

**TO:** House Committee on Families, Children and Seniors

**FR:** Keep MI Kids Tobacco Free Alliance

**DATE:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024

**RE:** HB 6002, HB 6003, HB 6004, HB 6005, HB 6022

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The Keep MI Kids Tobacco Free Alliance is a coalition of more than 120 organizations working to protect kids from the dangers of commercial tobacco.

Year after year, Michigan receives failing grades when it comes to tobacco control policies. Tobacco kills more than 16,200 Michiganders annually – more than AIDS, alcohol, car accidents, illegal drugs, murders, and suicides combined. Tobacco costs the state over \$5.33 billion in health care expenditures and more than \$11.5 billion in lost productivity each year. Michigan's weak regulations result in high rates of illegal sales to minors.

In addition, Michigan kids in middle and high school are accessing tobacco products that are more kid-friendly than ever. Thousands of products like cotton candy and bubble gum e-cigarettes can deliver massive doses of nicotine. The time is now for Michigan lawmakers to stand up for Michigan kids.

Thank you for hearing HB 6002-6005 and HB 6022 which include three critical issues within the Protect MI Kids bill package:

1. Requiring tobacco retailers to be licensed, just like liquor retailers, so the state can enforce laws prohibiting the sale of tobacco to minors.
2. Repealing ineffective penalties that punish kids for tobacco purchase, use and possession.
3. Restoring local-level decision making for tobacco sales restrictions.

Included in this packet are materials that address these important proposals.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact:

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