

Susan Frey

From: Corey Beckwith <CBeckwith@accesscommunity.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 4:32 PM
To: Susan Frey
Cc: Asraa Alhawli
Subject: Public Comment: Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Funding

Ms. Frey,

As Michigan emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic, there is no better time to invest in the health of our residents. Few health issues offer greater return on investment than tobacco prevention and cessation. Tobacco use remains the greatest cause of preventable death in our state. In 2021, over 16,000 deaths in Michigan were directly related to smoking.

Michigan has a strong network of tobacco prevention and cessation professionals, but state funding for these services is insufficient to meet the needs of our residents. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Tobacco Section currently receives under \$2 million, annually. In 2012, the CDC recommended Michigan spend nearly \$110 million, annually on tobacco prevention and treatment. Despite this recommendation, State of Michigan tobacco funding has remained too low over the past decade.

As the State Legislature considers the 2022-2023 budget, tobacco prevention and cessation funding offers the opportunity to make a significant health impact with a relatively minor investment. Increasing the Tobacco Section budget from \$2 million to \$5 million will allow for increased community-based tobacco prevention activity, expanded services from the Michigan Tobacco Quitline, increased access to free nicotine replacement therapy for the uninsured, broad reaching health marketing campaigns and much more.

Well-funded tobacco prevention and cessation services are a smart choice for Michigan's health.

Thank you,

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