

RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING LAWS PROHIBITING THE SALE OF TOBACCO TO ANYONE UNDER 21 (BOH 17- 06)

WHEREAS, tobacco use is a contributing factor in the leading causes of death in DuPage County, including cancer, heart disease, stroke, and chronic lower respiratory disease; and

WHEREAS, tobacco usage is a significant public health concern and reducing that usage is a goal of the DuPage County Health Department, using the Illinois Tobacco-Free Communities Grant to prevent usage of tobacco among youth, promote tobacco cessation among youth and adults, eliminate tobacco-related disparities, and eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke; and

WHEREAS, data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) show that 95 percent of adult smokers begin smoking before they turn 21, and that the ages of 18 to 21 are a critical period when many smokers move from experimental smoking to regular, daily use; and

WHEREAS, a 2015 Institute of Medicine report concludes that raising the minimum legal sale age (MLSA) for tobacco products nationwide will reduce tobacco initiation, particularly among adolescents aged 15 to 17, and that it will improve health across the lifespan and save lives; and that raising the minimum legal sales age for tobacco products to 21 nationwide would, over time, lead to a 12 percent decrease in smoking prevalence; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies demonstrate that raising the MLSA for tobacco products to 21 is an effective intervention; and

WHEREAS, government agencies, including the Department of Defense, Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force have each set goals to become tobacco-free, and military leaders recognize that protecting service members from early addiction to tobacco is essential to their health, as tobacco use impairs military readiness, and increases the likelihood of sustained injuries, surgical complications, and delayed wound healing;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the DuPage Board of Health, through its unwavering commitment to the public's health, supports laws at the municipal and state level that prohibit the sale of tobacco to individuals under 21 years of age.

Approved this 14th day of December 2017.

Linda A. Kurzawa, President
DuPage County Board of Health

Scott J. Cross, Secretary
DuPage County Board of Health