



Lincoln Park Children and Families Collaborative
2424 West 5th Street, Suite 10, 102, and 108
Duluth, MN 55806

March 8, 2021

Minnesota House Preventive Health Policy Division

Dear Chair Frieberg and Committee Members:

Lincoln Park Children and Families Collaborative (LPCFC) urges you to support legislation like HF1721, which includes comprehensive tobacco tax changes and funding for prevention and treatment.

The Mission of LPCFC is to support children and families by connecting them to resources and opportunities, embracing our cultures, and building community and well-being through strong and equitable leadership. As part of our programming, we provide education on the importance of keeping tobacco sacred and work towards efforts to implement commercial tobacco control and prevention.

Minnesota needs a comprehensive, all-hands-on-deck approach to protect the next generation from lifelong tobacco addiction, including high prices and dedicated prevention funding, especially now that ClearWay Minnesota, the foundation created with the tobacco settlement that has provided the majority of funding for tobacco prevention in the past, is scheduled to sunset at the end of 2021.

Smoking remains the leading preventable cause of death in Minnesota and legislation like HF1721 will help address this issue. Two staff who work for our organization have lost loved ones to lung cancer in the past 5 months. I lost my Auntie on the Blue Moon Halloween of 2020, who was just in her early 60's and now I am the legal guardian for her son, who is a vulnerable adult and had to move in with me, all our lives turned upside down due to this legal, addictive product, that kills people. Another one of our staff lost her husband this past Saturday to lung cancer and we find ourselves mourning together, again, another lost loved one to the dangerous addiction of commercial tobacco.

Please support legislation that makes it harder for people to start using, that makes it easier for folks to quit, and supports prevention and education around the harms of commercial tobacco, including death.

Sincerely,

Jodi

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