

December 20, 2022

Dear Governor DeWine,

We, the undersigned, request that you veto H.B. 513. This bill will remove all local control over tobacco policies including implementing local tobacco retail licensure programs, conducting local compliance to ensure retailers are not selling to kids, and furthering policies to end the sale of flavored tobacco products designed to attract kids.

As you know, tobacco use remains this nation's number one preventable cause of premature death and disease, killing 20,200 Ohioans each year. Ohio has some of the worst tobacco use rates in the country – 1 in 5 adults currently smoke cigarettes and nearly 1 in 3 (29.8%) Ohio high school students are using e-cigarettes. Flavored products are driving this epidemic. In fact, 85% of youth e-cigarette users use flavored products. Unless we take action to reduce tobacco use, 259,000 of the youth alive today in Ohio will die early from a tobacco-related disease. We must do everything we can to prevent tobacco use among young people.

The economic impact of tobacco use in Ohio is staggering. In addition to this enormous health burden, tobacco use also imposes a major economic burden on society costing Ohio \$6.56 billion in annual health costs and \$8.04 billion in lost productivity due to smoking caused related illness.

Under your leadership, Ohio has taken positive steps to improve the health of people across the state, but often the strongest, most effective tobacco control policies have originated at the local level. When you signed Tobacco 21 into law in 2019, you kept local control for local municipalities in Ohio to do more to protect their kids. H.B. 513 will undo all the good that has been put into place at the local level and will cause a proliferation of more tobacco retailers, more access to kids, and more new users to these dangerous products.

Local control allows communities to play the role of innovators, adopting and implementing important public health policies and demonstrating they are feasible and effective. For example, before the state raised the age of tobacco sales to age 21, local communities led the way. Local communities continue to lead with implementing effective enforcement strategies of the law with strategies such as compliance checks with retailers and tobacco retailer licensing programs. The General Assembly has threatened to undo this progress without any public input from these same communities.

We applaud your commitment to addressing the devastating impact of tobacco use on our children and ask that you continue that commitment by vetoing H.B. 513.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio

Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County (ADAMH)

Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP) Coalition/Trumbull County Mental Health & Recovery Board

American Academy of Pediatrics, Ohio Chapter

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Heart Association

American Lung Association, Ohio

Association of Ohio Health Commissioners

The Breathing Association

Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids

Children's Defense Fund of Ohio	National LGBT Cancer Network
City of Whitehall	OhioHealth
Mayor Pureval Aftab, City of Cincinnati	Ohio Children's Alliance
Mayor Jeffrey Mims, City of Dayton	Ohio Mayors Alliance
Clark County Combined Health District	Ohio State Medical Association
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center	Ohio Public Health Association
Cleveland Department of Public Health	Pelotonia
Coalition for a Drug-Free Mahoning County	Prevention Action Alliance
Columbiana County Educational Service Center - CASH Coalition (Coordinated Action For School Health)	Preventing Tobacco Addiction Foundation/ Tobacco 21
East Liverpool City Health District	PrimaryOne Health
Family Recovery Center: Columbiana and Jefferson County	Sandusky County Public Health
First Year Cleveland	Salem City Schools
Greene County Tobacco Free Coalition	Stonewall Columbus
Kent City Health Department	Summit County Community Partnership
Logan County Health District	Talbert House, Cincinnati
Maryhaven	Toledo-Lucas County Health Department
Mount Carmel Health System	Union County Drug Free Coalition
	Washington Township Trustees / Logan County