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On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB3090

First I would like to say that I do not smoke and do not support cigarettes. However, when you create prohibitions, you will undoubtedly open up an illegal black market for cigarettes from other states because it will create a major money making industry. Illicit money making brings other crimes, similar to illegal drug sales.

You're going to find that people will take the opportunity to go to the states where these cigarettes can still be purchased, transport them across state lines, and sell them at astronomical prices within the communities that will be adversely affected by the sale of these.

There will be black market items which are not properly made according to regulations.

You underestimate the means for this industry to grow. This prohibition will undoubtedly target more police enforcement and negative engagement with police.

The state should enforce identification checks for every store. Candy simulated and flavored products which target youth should be prohibited. All purchases should require a scan of a drivers license or identification in the same manner as alcohol purchases.

The concerns lie in our foresight, and the past and recent killings of unarmed Black men and women at the hands of police, ie Eric Gardner. A prohibition will incite crime. A prohibition will drive people just a few miles down the road to the next state to purchase legal, menthol and flavored tobacco while police stop them enroute. A prohibition will target specific groups of individuals.

We have decriminalized cannabis use, and now we've criminalized menthol cigarettes and flavored cigarettes.

If there is a ban, then ALL cigarettes should be prohibited. There should be stricter accountability to the adults who market the products.