



Metro Public Health Dept

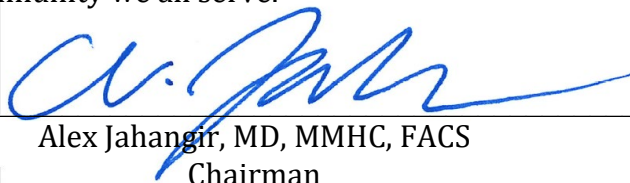
Nashville / Davidson County

Protecting, Improving, and Sustaining Health

Resolution

In support of House Bill 1278/Senate Bill 1024 regarding state preemption of local tobacco regulation

- WHEREAS,** Tobacco use remains one of the most lethal behaviors in the United States, killing an estimated 480,000 people per year in this country alone, including more than 41,000 deaths attributed to secondhand smoke exposure;¹ and,
- WHEREAS,** This is about one in five deaths annually, or 1,300 deaths nationwide every day;¹ in Tennessee, smoking accounts for 32.9% of all cancer deaths;² and,
- WHEREAS,** In Davidson County the exposure to these harmful habits remains unacceptably high, where more than 1 in 5 adults smoke cigarettes,³ and 16% of high school youth use vaping products;⁴ and,
- WHEREAS,** This Board has long supported more stringent control of tobacco, e-cigarettes and vaping devices, and is on record that “legislators and regulators should default to and act upon an assumption of harmfulness” from e-cigarettes and vaping devices until a more thorough understanding of their health impacts is gained;⁵ and,
- WHEREAS,** Since 1994 the Tennessee General Assembly has reserved to itself the entire field of tobacco regulation, preventing more nuanced local control;⁶ and,
- WHEREAS,** The General Assembly currently is considering HB1278/SB1024 by Whitson and Briggs that would loosen the bonds of state preemption in Davidson County;⁷ and,
- WHEREAS,** This easing of Legislative preemption would allow this Board and the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County to regulate tobacco and vapor products more precisely than is currently the case;⁷ and,
- WHEREAS,** This Board wholeheartedly supports measures allowing for more local control over such a critical threat to the health of our community;
- NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Metropolitan Board of Health of Nashville and Davidson County, on this 11th day of March, 2021, encourages the Tennessee General Assembly to give HB1278/SB1024 full consideration, and further encourages passage of this legislation for the betterment of the health and well-being of the community we all serve.



Alex Jahangir, MD, MMHC, FACS
Chairman

Metropolitan Board of Health of Nashville and Davidson County

- 1 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. [The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General](#). Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014 [accessed 2018 Feb 22].
- 2 Lortet-Tieulent, J, et al., “State-Level Cancer Mortality Attributable to Cigarette Smoking in the United States,” JAMA Internal Medicine, 2016
- 3 PLACES Project. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Accessed March 4, 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/places>
- 4 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data. Available at: www.cdc.gov/yrbs. Accessed on March 4, 2021.
- 5 Metropolitan Board of Health for Nashville and Davidson County, “Position Statement: E-cigarettes,” adopted Nov. 14, 2013.
- 6 [Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-17-1551](#) subsection (a)
- 7 <https://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/BillInfo/Default.aspx?BillNumber=HB1278>