



**To: San Francisco vs. Big Tobacco, a coalition of doctors, parents, and community groups protecting youth from flavored tobacco products and addiction, sponsored by nonprofit health organizations**

This letter is to express my support for the ordinance originally passed by the City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors, to restrict the sale of flavored tobacco products including menthol cigarettes. Flavored tobacco products undermine efforts to reduce youth tobacco use and put a new generation of kids at risk of nicotine addiction and tobacco-caused death and disease.

Over 80 percent of kids who have used tobacco started with a flavored product. Youth smokers are more likely to use menthol cigarettes than any other age group. Over half (54 percent) of youth smokers ages 12-17 use menthol cigarettes, compared to less than one-third of smokers ages 35 and older. Prevalence of menthol use is even higher among African American youth: seven out of 10 African-American youth smokers smoke menthol cigarettes.

The scientific evidence leaves no doubt that flavored tobacco products – including menthol – have a profound adverse impact on public health in the United States, resulting in more smoking and subsequently more death and disease from tobacco use. The research also demonstrates that the tobacco industry is responsible for the harm caused by menthol cigarettes because of its targeted marketing to children and African-American communities and its manipulation of menthol cigarettes to appeal to specific target markets. Prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes, will help counter these industry tactics.

I proudly join with other local and national organizations that are taking a stand to put the health of San Francisco’s children before tobacco industry profits. I fully support a June 2018 ballot measure to uphold the ordinance unanimously passed by the SF Board of Supervisors, to prohibit the sale of flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes, within the City and County of San Francisco.

Tung Nguyen, MD

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Name

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Signature

Asian American Research Center on Health

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Name of Organization or Business

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Email Address

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My organization is endorsing the measure.

You may use my name as an endorser, and my organization’s name for identification purposes only.