

Dear House Human Services Committee and Committee Assistant,

You may remember that I wrote earlier to urge you to vote in favor of S.18, An act relating to banning flavored tobacco products and e-liquids. I'm an ex-smoker and my partner vapes.

Please ask the Committee Assistant to add this email to the record.

This bill has become even more important since the Biden Administration has delayed enacting rules eliminating the sale of menthol.

This is a serious racial issue because 85% of Black adult smokers choose menthol products and 7 out of 10 Black youth who smoke also choose menthol. The tobacco industry has deliberately targeted Black communities with [marketing for menthol cigarettes](#) for more than 60 years.

I am a member of the Windham NAACP Health Justice Committee and saw this excellent article by Derrick Johnson, president of the national NAACP. <https://www.msnbc.com/opinion/msnbc-opinion/biden-menthol-cigarette-ban-delay-black-lives-risk-rcna129954>

He says "President Joe Biden's administration is sending an unacceptable message that Black lives do not matter when it comes to fighting tobacco use, the leading cause of preventable death in our country."

In addition, banning flavors in e-cigarettes and e-liquids is important to prevent Vermont youth from vaping. Many of them choose flavors. The PACE-Vermont survey found 86% of 12- to 17-year-olds who had ever used an e-cigarette, began with a flavored product.

Please support S.18. This bill will save lives.

Thank you.

Ann Schroeder
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