

Dear House Human Services Committee,

*I am writing to express my strong support for ending the sale of all flavored tobacco products, **including menthol**. Kids ages 12-17 are the highest users of menthol cigarettes. 54% of youth smokers start by using menthol.*

Banning menthol and flavors in tobacco, e-cigarette, and other tobacco products would reduce the number of youth who start smoking, reduce the overall number of tobacco users and benefit public health. Evidence shows that youth will transition to menthol products if they are not included in a flavor ban.

The high use of menthol is a direct result of predatory targeting by Big Tobacco Companies, and the health of Black Vermonters, youth, and LGBTQ Vermonters, and is directly impacted. I know the committee has heard from Black Vermonters in support of the bill.

Please put Vermonters first and pass s.18 to end the sale of all flavored tobacco.

Sincerely,

*Glauke Cooijmans, Winhall
Prevention Coordinator*

Mount Anthony Union Middle School