

Good afternoon Ma'am,

It was a pleasure visiting with you at the statehouse today. As requested The Vermont National Guard offers the following insights regarding S.86 (increasing the age for the use of tobacco to 21).

First of all, if the proposal passes and becomes law we see this no different than the legal drinking age. Members of the Vermont National Guard would be held to the same standard to comply and we would need to ensure compliance. In addition, being a member of the Vermont National Guard requires a level of health and fitness that is potentially impacted by smoking. A member of the National Guard that smokes is no different than a civilian in the fact that smoking can have consequences to long-term health and wellness, which impacts health care cost.

Respectfully,

Kenneth W. Gragg Jr.  
Deputy Adjutant General  
Office of the Adjutant General  
789 Vt. National Guard Road  
Colchester, Vermont 05446  
802-338-3124 (Office)  
802-310-3456 (Cell)  
[Ken.gragg@vermont.gov](mailto:Ken.gragg@vermont.gov)