

S. 2100, Tobacco to 21 Act

*Introduced by Senators Schatz, Durbin, Brown,
Markey, Boxer, Reed, Warren, Hirono, Blumenthal, and Whitehouse*

Save Lives by Raising the Tobacco Minimum Age to 21

- The Tobacco to 21 Act would raise the minimum legal tobacco age of sale to 21.
- Three-quarters of Americans favor raising the tobacco age of sale to 21 years, including seven in ten smokers.¹
- The Institute of Medicine at the National Academy of Medicine has concluded² that raising the minimum legal age of sale of tobacco products nationwide would:
 - Result in 223,000 fewer premature deaths, 50,000 fewer deaths from lung cancer, and 4.2 million fewer years of life lost for those born between 2000 and 2019;
 - Reduce tobacco initiation (especially among youth 15-17 year olds); and
 - Lead to a 12 percent decrease in smoking prevalence.
- Ninety-five (95) percent of adult smokers begin smoking before they turn 21.
 - Data suggest that adolescents may have an increased biological vulnerability to the effects of nicotine and nicotine addiction.³
 - The likelihood of developing smoking-related cancers increases with duration of smoking; therefore, those users that start at younger ages and continue to smoke are at higher risk of tobacco-related disease and death.⁴
- The current minimum legal tobacco age is 18. Numerous states and counties have already acted to raise the age to 21 (Hawaii; Columbia, MO; Upper Arlington, OH; Evanston, IL).

Public Health Impacts of Tobacco

- Tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, responsible for approximately 500,000 premature deaths each year.⁵
- Tobacco use costs the United States approximately \$170 billion in direct medical costs and \$156 billion in lost productivity every year.⁶

Endorsements

- Academic Pediatric Association
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
- American Congress of Obstetricians & Gynecologists
- American Heart Association
- American Lung Association
- American Pediatric Society
- American Public Health Association
- American Veterans (AMVETS)
- Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy and Leadership
- Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
- Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
- Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
- Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii
- First Focus Campaign for Children
- Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA)
- Pediatric Policy Council
- Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine
- Society for Pediatric Research
- Trust for America's Health

¹ American Journal of Preventive Medicine: [http://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797\(15\)00252-4/pdf](http://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797(15)00252-4/pdf)

² Institute of Medicine: <http://iom.nationalacademies.org/Reports/2015/TobaccoMinimumAgeReport.aspx>

³ National Institutes of Health: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3543069/>

⁴ National Institutes of Health: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK44701/>

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/fast_facts/

⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/fast_facts/