

# 2018 AG REQUEST LEGISLATION

## TOBACCO 21

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“Raising the legal minimum age for cigarette purchasers to 21 could gut our key young adult market (17-20)...”

- Philip Morris report, January 21, 1986

#### Why raise the tobacco sale age in Washington State?

**It will save lives.** No bill in Olympia this year will save more lives than Tobacco 21. Based on current smoking trends, *8,500 kids alive in Washington state today* will be saved from a premature death if the Legislature enacts Tobacco 21 – the equivalent of nearly three school buses of children per legislative district.

**Experience tells us it will work.** In 2005, Needham, Massachusetts raised its sale age for tobacco to age 21. The effect was powerful. Needham experienced declines in youth smoking of more than 50% - *nearly triple* those of surrounding communities.

**Commonsense tells us it will work.** 95% of adult smokers begin before they turn 21. 80% of adult smokers become daily smokers before they turn 18. 33% of kids under 18 who become regular smokers will die as a result of smoking. Older friends and classmates are the primary source of tobacco and vapor products for 15-17 year old youth.

**Our top research institution tells us it will work.** One of the most prestigious scientific authorities in the United States concluded that increasing the age of sale for tobacco products in the United States to 21 will significantly reduce the number of adolescents and young who start smoking, reduce deaths from smoking, and immediately improve the health of adolescents, young adults, young mothers, and their children.

**Big Tobacco knows it will work.** In the 1980s, an RJ Reynolds researcher declared that if a person has not smoked by the time they turn 21, the odds are “20-to-1” they never will.

Raising the tobacco sale age to 21 is an effective strategy to fight tobacco use and it’s gaining momentum nationwide. California, Hawaii, New Jersey, Maine, and Oregon have raised their tobacco sale ages to 21, along with at least 200 cities and counties across the country. Let’s get it done in Washington. **Action today will save lives.**

### LEGISLATION (SB 6048 / HB 1054)

**SB 6048 / HB 1054** will raise the sale age for tobacco and vapor products from 18 to 21, aligning tobacco and vapor products with marijuana and alcohol.



#### Attorney General Bob Ferguson

Yasmin Trudeau  
Legislative Affairs Director  
YasminC@atg.wa.gov  
206-516-2993

#### SPONSORS:

Sen. Kuderer (D-48)  
Sen. O’Ban (R-28)  
Sen. Rivers (R-18)  
Sen. Saldaña (D-37)  
Sen. Chase (D-32)  
Sen. Carlyle (D-36)  
Sen. Bailey (R-10)  
Sen. Darneille (D-27)  
Sen. Lias (D-21)  
Sen. Keiser (D-33)  
Sen. Frockt (D-46)  
Sen. Dhingra (D-45)  
Sen. King (R-14)  
Sen. Pedersen (D-43)  
Sen. Hunt (D-22)  
Sen. Wellman (D-41)  
Sen. Mullet (D-5)

Rep. Harris (R-17)  
Rep. Cody (D-34)  
Rep. Orwall (D-33)  
Rep. DeBolt (R-20)  
Rep. Johnson (R-14)  
Rep. McBride (D-48)  
Rep. Clibborn (D-41)  
Rep. Short (R-7)  
Rep. Pettigrew (D-37)  
Rep. Robinson (D-38)  
Rep. Fey (D-27)  
Rep. Kilduff (D-28)  
Rep. Riccelli (D-3)  
Rep. Ryu (D-32)  
Rep. Nealey (R-16)  
Rep. Goodman (D-45)  
Rep. Tharinger (D-24)  
Rep. Stanford (D-1)  
Rep. Frame (D-36)  
Rep. Pollet (D-46)  
Rep. Jinkins (D-27)  
Rep. Haler (R-8)  
Rep. Kagi (D-32)  
Rep. Hargrove (R-47)  
Rep. Fitzgibbon (D-34)  
Rep. Appleton (D-23)  
Rep. Chapman (D-24)  
Rep. Senn (D-41)  
Rep. Bergquist (D-11)  
Rep. Gregerson (D-33)  
Rep. Young (R-26)  
Rep. Farrell (D-46)  
Rep. Slatter (D-48)



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### SUPPORTED BY

- AirVan
- Alaska
- American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
- American College of Cardiology, Washington Chapter
- American Heart Association
- American Stroke Association
- American Lung Association of the Mountain Pacific
- Bastyr University
- Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
- Clallam County Health & Human Services
- Foundation for Healthy Generations
- Holland America Line
- King County
- Molina Healthcare
- North Coast Electric Company
- Northwest Health Law Advocates
- Preventing Tobacco Addiction Foundation
- Public Health Roundtable
- Regence
- Savers
- Snohomish Health District
- Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
- Together! For Youth
- TrueBlue
- UW Medicine
- Virginia Mason
- Washington Association for Substance Abuse & Violence Prevention
- Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
- Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials
- Washington State Board of Health
- Washington State Dental Association
- Washington State Hospital Association
- Washington State Medical Association
- Washington State Nurses Association
- Washington State PTA
- Washington State Public Health Association
- Whatcom County
- The YMCA

### IN THE NEWS

*Should the legal age for tobacco sales be raised from 18 to 21? The Clallam County Board of Health has passed a resolution asking the state Legislature to do just that. Board members voted Tuesday to call on the Legislature to raise the minimum sales age for tobacco and nicotine vapor products to 21.*

- Peninsula Daily News, October 23, 2016

*The new data showing that the percentage of adults who smoke fell to 15 percent in 2015 is a good sign for the nation's health. And it also should serve as a notice for lawmakers in Washington to raise the legal smoking age from 18 to 21. If a reduction in smoking is unequivocally positive for public health, shouldn't the Legislature take reasonable steps to further reduce the number of smokers?*

- The Columbian, June 1, 2016

*Banning tobacco sales to those 21 and younger can reduce high school student smoking by more than one-half, as it did in the first city to raise the age: Needham, Massachusetts. Hawaii became the first state to do so last year.*

- The Spokesman Review, January 21, 2016

*The number of teens and young adults who smoke cigarettes, chew tobacco and use vaping products — and risk their health and that of others — could be driven down further if Washington and other states raised the minimum age for smoking to 21.*

- The Herald, January 17, 2016

*The best way to combat this crisis is to raise the legal smoking age to 21, as the Legislature is considering with SHB 1458. Attorney General Bob Ferguson requested the bill, and science supports his efforts.*

- Seattle Times, March 28, 2015



**Attorney General  
Bob Ferguson**

Yasmin Trudeau  
Legislative Affairs Director  
YasminC@atg.wa.gov  
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