Key Stats

Unless there is a change in trajectory, tobacco addiction will dramatically shorten the lives of 104,000 Washington kids alive today – which equals nearly 30 busloads of kids in every legislative district.

More than 95 percent of addicted smokers start before age 21. The primary source of tobacco products for underage smokers are their 18 to 20 year old peers.

FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb has called youth use of e-cigarettes an “epidemic.” Youth e-cigarette use is up 77 percent from last year.

Six states and more than 360 cities and counties across the United States have passed T21. 28 percent of the U.S. population lives in a jurisdiction that has passed T21.

Needham, Massachusetts showed a 48% drop in high school smoking rates after passing T21, a significant decline relative to comparison communities. In the year after implementation, Chicago found a 36% decrease in 18-20 year olds that reported currently smoking cigarettes. In California, statewide retailer violation rates to under 18 year-olds decreased from 10.3% to 5.7% since implementation of T21 – a 45% decrease.

The impact of T21 is small. Only 2% of tobacco sales made in the U.S. go to those under 21. And yet, the Institute of Medicine predicted that T21 will result in a 15 percent reduction in the youth smoking initiation rate, including a 25 percent reduction in the initiation rate for 15-17 year olds.

Washington state spends $2.81 billion in annual health care costs directly caused by smoking.
2019 AG REQUEST LEGISLATION
INCREASING THE AGE OF SALE FOR TOBACCO AND VAPOR PRODUCTS TO 21

Supported By:

- AirVan
- Alaska
- Altria Client Services
- American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
- American College of Cardiology, Washington Chapter
- American College of Emergency Physicians, Washington Chapter
- American Heart Association
- American Lung Association of the Mountain Pacific
- American Stroke Association
- Arcora Foundation
- Association of Educational Service Districts
- Association of Washington Healthcare Plans
- Association of Washington School Principals
- Bastyr University
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Washington
- Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
- CHI Franciscan
- City of Seattle
- Clallam County Health & Human Services
- Coordinated Care
- Educational Service District 112
- Foundation for Healthy Generations
- Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
- Holland America Line
- International Community Health Services
- JUUL Labs
- Kaiser Permanente
- King County
- Legacy Health
- March of Dimes
- Mary Mahoney Professional Nurses Organization
- Molina Healthcare
- Multicare
- North Coast Electric Company
- Northwest Health Law Advocates
- Northwest Progressive Institute
- Office of Governor Jay Inslee
- Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Partners for Our Children
- Pemco Insurance
- Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest & Hawaii
- Premera Blue Cross
- Preventing Tobacco Addiction Foundation
- Providence St. Joseph
- Regence
- Roundtable
- Savers
- Seattle Cancer Care Alliance
- SEIU Healthcare 1199NW
- Snohomish Health District
- Southeast Seattle P.E.A.C.E. Coalition
- Spokane Regional Health District
- State Board of Health
- Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
- The YMCA
- Tobacco 21
- Together! For Youth
- TrueBlue
- United Way of the Pacific Northwest
- UnitedHealth Group
- UW Medicine
- Virginia Mason
- Washington Academy of Family Physicians
- Washington Association for Substance Abuse & Violence Prevention
- Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
- Washington Military Department
- Washington Osteopathic Medical Association
- Washington Poison Center
- Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials
- Washington State Board of Health
- Washington State Dental Association
- Washington State Hospital Association
- Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board
- Washington State Medical Association
- Washington State Nurses Association
- Washington State PTA
- Washington State Public Health Association
- Whatcom County