



STEVEN M. BIEDA
ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC LEADER
9TH DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 30036
LANSING, MI 48909-7536
PHONE: (517) 373-8360
FAX: (517) 373-9230
TOLL-FREE: (866) 262-7309
sensbieda@senate.michigan.gov

**THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

FINANCE, MINORITY VICE-CHAIR
INSURANCE, MINORITY VICE-CHAIR
JUDICIARY, MINORITY VICE-CHAIR
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT
ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY
CAPITOL COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON
UNIFORM STATE LAWS

August 4, 2016

Ann Arbor City Council
Larcom City Hall
301 East Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Dear Ann Arbor City Council Members:

I am writing to express my support of the recently introduced ordinance which would increase the minimum legal age to purchase tobacco in Ann Arbor to 21. I have witness first-hand, through the deaths of two uncles, the detrimental effects tobacco has on a body. I applaud your efforts to protect Michigan's youth from using tobacco.

As a State Senator serving a portion of Macomb County, I have a vested interest in protecting the future of our great state. Increasing the age to 21 would help to remove tobacco products from high schools, where many underage youth often gain access to tobacco. Enacting a Tobacco 21 policy will keep many youth from using tobacco at a critical point in their development.

It is exciting to see that Ann Arbor could become the first municipality in Michigan to adopt a Tobacco 21 policy, setting an example for other cities in our state to follow. I applaud your desire to lead Michigan forward as a healthier state and to prevent our kids from experiencing the dire consequences associated with tobacco addiction. As such, I urge you to move swiftly to pass this ordinance.
Sincerely,

Steve Bieda
State Senator
9th District

SB:jo