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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ADAM F. ZEMKE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

August 3, 2016

Dear Ann Arbor City Council members:

As a Michigan State House Representative representing Ann Arbor, I am writing to applaud your efforts in introducing the tobacco 21 ordinance, and ask for its speedy passage.

It's clear you understand that the main impetus behind this ordinance is to save lives by reducing tobacco initiation and use by our youngest citizens. This is a worthwhile public health and economic goal for our state. Michigan will reap the benefits of healthier, more productive adults as these youngsters mature – and they will avoid the disease and costly results of a lifetime of addiction to nicotine. In fact, the recent Institute of Medicine Report clearly shows evidence that raising the age of legal access to tobacco will:

- significantly reduce the number of adolescents and young adults who start smoking;
- reduce smoking-caused deaths; and
- immediately improve the health of adolescents, young adults and young mothers who would be deterred from smoking, as well as their children.

As a lifelong resident of our community and someone whose family has a generational history of heart-related health problems, I am particularly proud that Ann Arbor is willing to take this commonsense, progressive step toward becoming the first locality in Michigan to adopt a tobacco 21 policy. I only hope other jurisdictions will see the many benefits of this life saving policy and do the same.

Respectfully your friend and colleague,

Adam Zemke
Representative, 55th District
Michigan House of Representatives

