



**APPLE TREE DENTAL**

Access • Compassion • Excellence

**Corporate Office**

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Minnesota House Preventive Health Policy Division  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Apple Tree Dental, we would like to express our support for HF 904, which was recently introduced by Representative Cedrick Frazier with the aim to end the sale of all flavored tobacco products in Minnesota. While smoking rates were presenting a downward trend in the last few decades, there has been an alarming increase in the use of e-cigarettes and vape pens among youth for the past few years. Research shows that many high school students who use e-cigarettes may go on to smoke conventional cigarettes, and both products contain dangerous and cancer-causing chemicals.

Apple Tree Dental's role as a Critical Access Dental provider in Minnesota gives us a unique perspective into the dangers of tobacco use over prolonged periods. Early tooth loss due to gum disease and increased rates of oral cancers are two of the risks that come with the use of tobacco. We incorporate tobacco cessation programs into our practice and screen all patients for tobacco use. However, we know that it is better still to prevent youth from ever starting to smoke. Ending the sale of flavored tobacco products is a good step toward discouraging young Minnesotans from ever picking up a vape pen or e-cigarette.

In 2019, representatives of Apple Tree's Mounds View Center shared testimonies at the deliberation of implementing "Tobacco 21" in the city of Mounds View, and that law did pass. We remain dedicated to protecting our youth from the dangers of tobacco use, and we are proud to encourage the House Preventive Health Policy Division to support Representative Frazier's HF 904 bill.

Thank you for your time.

Michael J Helgeson, DDS  
Chief Executive Officer

Deborah Jacobi, RDH, MA  
Policy Director

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