



March 3, 2020

House Transportation and Policy Division

RE: HF 3072 (clean air for kids in cars)

Dear Chair Hornstein and Committee Members:

Minnesotans for a Smoke-Free Generation is a coalition of more than 60 organizations working to reduce youth tobacco use and end tobacco's harm for good. **Minnesotans for a Smoke-Free Generation supports HF 3072**, which protects youth from secondhand smoke and e-cigarette aerosol exposure in vehicles.

Research finds that average secondhand smoke exposure in a car is equivalent to sitting for three hours in a smoke-filled room. As a state, we have made significant progress to protect our kids and all residents from the harms of secondhand smoke and aerosol. Just last year, the Minnesota Legislature voted overwhelmingly to strengthen our state's clean indoor air act by including e-cigarette aerosol.

Unfortunately, those same protections haven't reached our cars. One study found that nearly 23 percent of Minnesota kids rode in a smoky vehicle at least once in the past week. That is far too many kids who are exposed to deadly secondhand smoke.

Our kids are counting on us to extend Minnesota's clean air protections from bars and restaurants into our cars. By passing this law, Minnesota can join nine other states that protect children from being exposed to dangerous secondhand smoke while riding in a vehicle.

This bill would prohibit smoking – including e-cigarette use – in a vehicle when children under 18 are present. At a time when our state is facing a youth tobacco epidemic and rising vaping rates, this bill also sends a clear message to kids that no tobacco use is safe.

This proposal is overwhelmingly popular among Minnesota voters. A recent poll found 88 percent of Minnesotans support prohibiting smoking and e-cigarette use in cars when kids are present.

On behalf of Minnesotans for a Smoke-Free Generation, thank you for considering this important policy to protect our kids from the harms of e-cigarette aerosol and secondhand smoke. We hope we can count on your support.

Sincerely,

Molly Moilanen  
Co-Chair, Minnesotans for a  
Smoke-Free Generation  
Vice President, ClearWay Minnesota<sup>SM</sup>

Janelle Waldock  
Co-Chair, Minnesotans for a  
Smoke-Free Generation  
Senior Director of Policy, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of  
Minnesota

**About Minnesotans for a Smoke-Free Generation**

*Minnesotans for a Smoke-Free Generation is a coalition of more than 60 organizations that share a common goal of saving Minnesota youth from a lifetime of addiction to tobacco. The coalition supports policies that reduce youth smoking and nicotine addiction, including increasing tobacco prices, raising the tobacco sale age to 21, limiting access to candy-, fruit- and menthol-flavored tobacco, and funding tobacco prevention and cessation programs.*

*Partners include: The African American Leadership Forum, Allina Health, Allina Health | Aetna, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Heart Association, American Lung Association in Minnesota, Apple Tree Dental, Association for Nonsmokers – Minnesota, Aurora/St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation, Becker County Energized, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation, Cancer Legal Care, CentraCare, Children’s Defense Fund-MN, Children’s Minnesota, ClearWay Minnesota<sup>SM</sup>, Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio – CLUES, Dodge County Public Health, Education Minnesota, Essentia Health, Gillette Children’s Specialty Healthcare, A Healthier Southwest, HealthPartners, Hennepin Healthcare, Horizon Public Health, Indigenous Peoples Task Force, ISALAH, JustUs Health, LAAMPP Alumni, Lake Region Healthcare, Local Public Health Association of Minnesota, LPCFC – Lincoln Park Children and Families Collaborative, March of Dimes, Mayo Clinic, Medica, Meeker McLeod Sibley Community Health Services, Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians, Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers, Minnesota Cancer Alliance, Minnesota Council of Health Plans, MHA – Minnesota Hospital Association, Minnesota Medical Association, Minnesota Nurses Association, Minnesota Oral Health Coalition, Minnesota Public Health Association, MNAAP – Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, ModelCities, NAMI Minnesota, North Memorial Health, NorthPoint Health & Wellness, Olmsted Medical Center, Open Cities Health Center, PartnerSHIP 4 Health, Perham Health & Living, Preventing Tobacco Addiction Foundation, SEIU Healthcare Minnesota, ShiftMN, St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, Steele County Public Health, Tobacco-Free Alliance, Twin Cities Medical Society, UCare, Vision In Living Life – Change is Possible, WellShare International and Zumbro Valley Medical Society. Find out more at: [smokefreegenmn.org](http://smokefreegenmn.org).*