



Subject: Support for the Bill to Eliminate Tobacco Use in Baltimore City Stadiums  
Date: January 22, 2024  
To: The Honorable Members of the Baltimore City Council  
From: Lance Kilpatrick, Maryland Government Relations Director, ACS CAN  
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Honorable Council Members, for the record my name is Lance Kilpatrick and I am the Maryland Government Relations Director for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network.

I have a confession to make: as a child growing up in the early 1970s, I was an Oakland A's fan. For the Oakland A's to win, they had to go through the Baltimore Orioles. Now, I totally respected Brooks and Frank, and was amazed that a baseball team could have four 20-game winners in the same season. I rooted against them, but I did respect them.

When you're a sports fan as a kid you go off and try to mimic what the players you loved did on the field, on the court, on the ice. In baseball, you would try to wind up and throw the ball to home plate in the same style as your favorite starting pitcher. You would hold the bat the way you would see your favorite outfielder hold a bat. You look up to them; you want to be like them.

But today's world is definitely different than it was when I was a kid. And what we know now, is the burly, hulking ball player who would spit threateningly on to the ground while in the batter's box was chewing tobacco. And for kids who really wanted to be like their heroes, they may have considered trying chewing tobacco as well, because that's what their hero did. Like it or not, sports figures are looked up to, and looked upon as a role model. With legislation such as this being presented today, we can ensure that, at the very least, promoting tobacco products while playing a game people love is no longer an option.

In closing, I just want to remind the Council of one of the greatest hitters ever to don a professional baseball uniform, Tony Gwynn. Tony Gwynn was masterful with a bat, wielding it like a wand that could summon singles and doubles with the mere flick of his wrists. Tony Gwynn was also a tobacco user, using dip from the time he was in rookie ball. And sadly, he died on June 16, 2014 – in his mid-fifties - because of complications arising from cancer.

We don't want that to be the end result for kids who look up to baseball players and see heroes. Let's make sure that doesn't happen. Pass this legislation and make it law. Thank you.