


F R O M	Name & Title	Dr. Leana Wen <i>Leana Wen</i>	Health Department  MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
	Subject	Council Bill 15-0475 – Drug Paraphernalia and Smoking Aids - Commercial Display to Minors		

To: President and Members  
of the City Council  
c/o 409 City Hall

February 23, 2015

The Baltimore City Health Department is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill 15-0475 – Drug Paraphernalia and Smoking Aids – Commercial Display to Minors. The purpose of this bill is to update the definition of a smoking aid and prohibit the displays of such smoking aids, with the intent to sell or deliver it to another, in any place where it is open to casual view by a minor. BCHD supports this bill as cardiovascular disease is the number one preventable cause of death for Baltimore City residents and smoking is one of the major risk factors for cardiovascular disease.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, cigarette smoking causes more than 480,000 deaths each year in the United States. In Baltimore, 16.5% of youth reported using tobacco in 2013 and 14.4% reported the initiation of tobacco products within the last year.<sup>i</sup> The placement of smoking aids and tobacco products at point of sale locations has been shown to normalize the presence of such products, encourage youth initiation, and discourage cessation.<sup>ii</sup> There is a proven, causal relationship between tobacco advertising and smoking initiation in youth.<sup>iii</sup>

BCHD supports this legislation, appreciates the opportunity to discuss this important issue, and will be present at the hearing to answer any questions the Council may have on this matter.

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor  
Rianna Matthews-Brown, Chief of Staff, Baltimore City Health Department  
Andrew Nicklas, Director of Legislative Affairs, Baltimore City Health Department

<sup>i</sup> Monitoring Changing Tobacco Use Behaviors Underage Maryland Youth: 2000-2013, Adults Ages 18 and Older: 2000-2012, <http://crf.maryland.gov/pdf/HG13-1004-PHPA-Biennial-Tobacco-Study.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> Tobacco Free Kids Fact Sheet "Tobacco Point-of-Purchase Advertising and Marketing"  
<http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0075.pdf>

<sup>iii</sup> Tobacco Free Kids Fact Sheet "Tobacco Company Marketing to Kids"  
<http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0008.pdf>

