



American Lung Association Testimony Bill# 23-0418
Baltimore City Council
Health, Environment, and Technology
January 24, 2024
Support

Chair McCray and Members of the Committee:

We thank you for the opportunity to provide public comments on Bill Number 23-0418 sponsored by Councilmember Burnett which would prohibit tobacco products in stadiums within Baltimore City. The American Lung Association (ALA) strongly supports this legislation as an important step to protect youth from the harms of tobacco use.

The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease, through research, education and advocacy. The work of the American Lung Association is focused on four strategic imperatives: to defeat lung cancer; to improve the air we breathe; to reduce the burden of lung disease on individuals and their families; and to eliminate tobacco use and tobacco-related diseases.

The American Lung Association believes everyone is entitled to breathe safe and healthy air and supports measures to require totally tobacco-free environments. Recognizing the role that professional athletes represent in children's lives as role models, it is critically important that they are setting strong examples. By eliminating tobacco use in stadiums it will not only protect the health of the players and fans but will set a strong example for youth who are attending and watching these events. Currently, new Major League Baseball players are prohibited from using tobacco products under the current [collective bargaining agreement](#), however we need to close loopholes by enacting local laws to ensure that tobacco use of any kind is not allowed in stadiums within the city.

To date, over half of Major League Baseball stadiums are tobacco free, [16 out of 30](#). We encourage Baltimore to take the next step and join this growing list.

The American Lung Association thanks the Baltimore City Council for addressing this issue and their commitment to the continued health and well-being of the residents of the city. We encourage a favorable report and swift passage by the Council.

Sincerely,

Aleks Casper

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