

## Joint Statement Urging the Biden Administration to Immediately Issue Final Rules Prohibiting Menthol Cigarettes and Flavored Cigars

Our organizations are united in our strong support for the FDA's proposed rules to prohibit menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars, and we call on the Biden Administration to issue the final rules this month, the deadline the Administration set in December when it issued the Fall 2023 Unified Agenda of regulatory actions. These rules are supported by overwhelming scientific evidence, they will have enormous benefits for our nation's health, and they are critical to achieving top priorities of the Biden Administration, especially the President's Cancer Moonshot and the Administration's commitment to promoting health equity.

We were deeply disappointed in December when the Administration delayed issuing these long-overdue rules. As tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, killing nearly half a million Americans every year, any further delay in issuing the final rules will result in needless disease, suffering and deaths. The Administration must stand up to the tobacco industry and act now to save lives.

These rules will have a profound impact on our nation's health. Once implemented, they will:

- **Protect America's kids from tobacco addiction.** Menthol cigarettes are a "starter product" for youth because menthol cools and numbs the throat, masking the harshness of tobacco smoke. Half of all youth who have ever tried smoking started with menthol cigarettes. Flavored cigars, sold in hundreds of kid-friendly flavors, also attract kids and endanger their health.
- **Advance the President's Cancer Moonshot.** As the Administration has stated, smoking causes 30% of all cancer deaths in the U.S. and is "the biggest single driver of cancer deaths in this country." These rules represent some of the most impactful actions the Administration can take to save lives from cancer, and research shows that prohibiting menthol cigarettes would help close the disparity in lung cancer death rates between Black Americans and other racial groups sooner than it otherwise would have.
- **Promote health equity.** These rules will especially improve the health of Black and other communities that have long been targeted by the tobacco industry with predatory marketing for these products. The industry has particularly targeted the Black community, causing devastating and disproportionate harm to the health of Black Americans. Other populations disproportionately impacted by menthol cigarettes include Hispanic and Asian Americans, the LGBTQ+ community, women, people with limited incomes, and people with mental health conditions.
- **Save hundreds of thousands of lives.** Researchers estimate that prohibiting menthol cigarettes will save up to 654,000 lives within 40 years, including 255,000 Black lives.

Given these enormous benefits, the Biden Administration has an obligation to issue the final rules prohibiting menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars without further delay. We urge President Biden and his Administration to seize this historic opportunity to improve our nation's health, promote health equity and save lives from cancer and other tobacco-related diseases. Delays cost lives, and inaction is unacceptable.

100 Black Men of America, Inc.  
67th Precinct Clergy Council  
Academic Pediatric Association  
Academy of General Dentistry  
Action on Smoking & Health  
African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council  
Allergy & Asthma Network  
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.  
AME Church - Social Action Commission  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association for Cancer Research  
American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research  
American Association for Respiratory Care  
American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American College Health Association (ACHA)  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST)  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Dental Association  
American Heart Association  
American Indian Cancer Foundation  
American Lung Association  
American Medical Association  
American Medical Women's Association  
American Pediatric Society  
American Pharmacists Association  
American Public Health Association  
American School Health Association  
American Society of Addiction Medicine  
American Society of Hematology  
American Thoracic Society  
Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights  
Arc of Justice  
Asian American Christian Collaborative  
Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy and Leadership (APPEAL)  
Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO)  
Association for the Treatment of Tobacco Use and Dependence  
Association of American Cancer Institutes  
Association of Black Cardiologists  
Association of Black Women Physicians  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America  
Big Cities Health Coalition  
Black Women's Health Imperative  
BlackDoctor.org  
Breathe DC  
Breathe PA  
Breathe Southern California  
CADCA  
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids  
CATCH Global Foundation  
Catholic Health Association of the United States  
CenterLink: The Community of LGBTQ Centers  
Commissioned Officers Association of the USPHS  
Community Wellness Alliance

COPD Foundation  
Counter Tools  
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute  
DC Tobacco Free Coalition  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated  
Doctors for America  
Emphysema Foundation of America  
First Focus on Children  
Free ME from Lung Cancer  
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ+ Equality  
GO2 for Lung Cancer  
HealthHIV  
Healthy Americas Foundation  
Hope for Stomach Cancer  
IntelliQuit  
Leadership Council for Healthy Communities  
League of United Latin American Citizens  
LUNgevity Foundation  
March of Dimes  
Mocha Moms, Inc.  
NAACP  
National Alliance for Hispanic Health  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of Hispanic Nurses  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of School Nurses  
National Black Empowerment Council  
National Black Justice Coalition  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Center for Health Research  
National Coalition for LGBTQ Health  
National Council of Negro Women (NCNW)  
National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention  
National Hispanic Council on Aging  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National LGBT Cancer Network  
National Medical Association  
National Network of Public Health Institutes  
North American Quitline Consortium  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Parents Against Vaping e-cigarettes  
Pediatric Policy Council  
Prevent Cancer Foundation  
Preventing Tobacco Addiction Foundation/Tobacco 21  
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association  
Public Health Law Center  
Public Health Solutions  
Respiratory Health Association  
Right 2 Breathe  
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation  
Save A Girl Save A World  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography & Interventions  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Society for Public Health Education  
The African American Wellness Project  
The Center for Black Health & Equity  
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health  
Trust for America's Health  
Truth Initiative  
Union for Reform Judaism  
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease