



Please Oppose H. 3681/S. 414 Tobacco Preemption

Who do you trust more? Local coalitions working to prevent children from addiction or tobacco companies? The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Heart Association and American Lung Association urge you to oppose H.3681 and S. 414 that takes away the rights of local communities to pass important policies to prevent and reduce youth tobacco use.

Here are the facts:

- H.3681/ S. 414 is a gift to the tobacco industry. An industry that has addicted our youth and young adults to tobacco. Removing the ability of communities to take meaningful action to reduce tobacco use is the tobacco industry's #1 legislative goal.
- SC youth are using tobacco products on average more than their peers in neighboring states and across the country with the latest data showing almost 1 out of 4 (21.1%) of high school students self-reporting they use e-cigarettes.
- SC has some of the friendliest laws to the tobacco industry making their job of marketing to children easy.
- It would represent a significant setback in the fight to prevent and reduce youth tobacco use in South Carolina.
- Over 7,000 South Carolinians died each year because of tobacco related illnesses.
- Smoking cost our state over \$2.2 billion annually in health care cost.

The solutions to youth tobacco addiction and adults who want to quit, start within local coalitions and communities. Please allow them to continue doing the trusted work we know will have an impact on the health and prosperity of our state.

We urge you to prioritize people over profits instead of lining the pockets of the tobacco industry.

Please oppose H.3681/ S. 414 and protect local decision-making authority for tobacco retail licensure and flavor restrictions.