

## Susan Frey

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**From:** Chang, Tammy (Tammy) <tachang@med.umich.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 15, 2022 1:49 PM  
**To:** Susan Frey  
**Subject:** Support for Proposed Increase for Funding for Tobacco Cessation/Prevention

Dear Health and Human Services Appropriations Sub-Committee,

I am writing as an individual citizen to express my strong support for the proposed increase in funding for the Michigan Tobacco Quitline, local prevention programs, educational efforts, and staffing for the Tobacco Section.

As a healthcare provider and organizational leader, I am witnessing an incredible movement among patients and healthcare providers to address Michigan's very high rates of tobacco use. Unfortunately, the resources that currently exist do not come close to covering what is needed for Michiganders, especially those that live in rural areas.

My team's work focuses on state-wide initiatives to ensure all smokers who are interested in quitting receive the support and resources they need to be successful. The Michigan Tobacco Quitline is the most comprehensive and accessible source of support for most Michiganders.

National studies show that 70% of smokers want to quit, but only about 15% of Michiganders get treatment or support for quitting. This is a huge gap our team is working to fill. However, without more funding for the Michigan Tobacco Quitline and local resources, many patients who want to quit will not have access to the comprehensive treatment we know works.

As a physician, helping someone quit is one of the most important things I do to keep patients healthy and working. Tobacco cessation programs and tobacco prevention programs **save money and save lives**. There is no better investment.

Please help ensure that all Michiganders have access to Tobacco Cessation and Prevention resources by supporting this proposed increase in funding.

Thank you all for your service to our state and our communities. I am grateful to you.

Sincerely,

Tammy

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