



2109 Hamilton Rd  
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Dear Health and Human Services Appropriations Sub-Committee,

The Tobacco Free Michigan Action Coalition believes that the increases proposed for the Tobacco Section in the Department of Health and Human services is extremely valuable. Increasing in funding for the Michigan Tobacco Quitline, local prevention programs, regional quit sites and staffing for the Tobacco Section are valuable uses of tax payer money that will return long-term dividends.

Michigan is one of the worst state's in the nation when it comes to funding our prevention and cessation programs. In 2012, the CDC recommended that Michigan spend about \$110 million annually on prevention and cessation programs. Despite over \$1 BILLION annually in tobacco related revenue the state spends under \$2 million annually on prevention and cessation. This puts us 46th in the nation in terms of spending compared to CDC best practices.

We have a chance to change this. The 2022-2023 fiscal budget anticipates a massive increase in funding for the state and the Governor's proposed budget directs some of this to prevention and cessation efforts. Please help ensure that all Michiganders have access to Tobacco Cessation and Prevention resources by supporting this proposed increase in funding or increasing it further.

It is estimated that every additional \$1 spent on prevention and cessation can decrease future healthcare costs by \$6.56 to \$7.84. We urge the committee to make this investment in Michigan's public health and support our tobacco services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Steiner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small star above the letter 'i' in "Steiner".

Paul Steiner