Correction: Our apologies -- the subject line of this news alert has been corrected to thank President Biden and the FDA.

April 29, 2021

Thank you President Biden and the FDA, now is the time for the DC Council to act!

The DC Tobacco Free Coalition applauds President Biden on starting the process to end the sale of menthol flavored cigarettes

WASHINGTON, DC -- The DC Tobacco Free Coalition thanks President Biden and U.S. Food and Drug Administration for their leadership on starting the process to end the sale of menthol flavored cigarettes.

Beginning in the 1950s, Big Tobacco targeted Black communities with menthol-flavored cigarettes. Their efforts led to the vast majority of Black smokers using menthol flavored tobacco products.

Smoking kills 45,000 Black Americans each year. Lung cancer kills more Black Americans than any other type of cancer. Ending the sale of these products will help close the significant health inequities that exist in the District of Columbia and across the country.

Unfortunately, it may be years before these FDA regulations go into effect. As a result, it is imperative that the DC Council acts now to advance the bill awaiting a Judiciary Committee markup to end the sale of all flavored tobacco products.

"The DC Tobacco Free Coalition calls on Judiciary Committee Chair Charles Allen to quickly markup legislation to end the sale of all flavored tobacco products. Let's stop Big Tobacco now from hooking another generation through menthol flavored tobacco products," proclaimed DC Tobacco Free Coalition Chair Liz Furgurson.

The DC Tobacco Free Coalition's (DCTFC) mission is to improve the health of the District of Columbia residents by decreasing the morbidity and mortality associated with tobacco use and exposure through education, public policy, and advocacy using culturally and linguistically competent approaches.

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