

To: Board of Education

From: Marcel Harmon, president, board of education

Re: Resolution in Support of LiveWell Lawrence "Tobacco 21" Initiative

Date: September 22, 2016

Background:

The "Tobacco 21" Initiative is a nationwide movement to encourage governmental entities to adopt ordinances (or their equivalents) to raise the legal minimum age for sale of all tobacco and nicotine products to age 21. Thus far, over 160 cities in 12 states including New York City, Kansas City, Chicago, Cleveland, Boston, and San Francisco, and the entire states of Hawaii and California, have taken this important step in protecting our children.

For years, adolescent smoking rates have been coming down, although nearly one in five high school seniors still uses tobacco. Now, however, adolescents' use of e-cigarettes, nicotine vapor devices, hookahs and small cigars has gone up dramatically, threatening to completely erase a decade of progress.

During the years from ages 18-21, youthful experimentation often accelerates into daily use. It is a time when the adolescent brain is highly vulnerable to the effects of a powerful addictive agent like nicotine. Exposure during this period may result in permanent neurological receptor changes that lead to a lifetime nicotine habit and resulting illness. Raising the nicotine/tobacco age also better protects younger teens, as 90% of those who provide cigarettes to kids under 18 are themselves under 21. As a result, raising the tobacco sales age to 21 has been shown to reduce high school smoking by over 50%.

Rationale:

Educating and protecting students is the primary goal of the Board of Education. The "Tobacco 21" Initiative furthers this goal. While the board has taken steps to ensure smoke free facilities through adoption of its own policies, only the governing body of the city can pass and enforce a change in the legal minimum age for the sale of all tobacco and nicotine products to age 21.

Recommendation:

In order to serve the best interests of all Lawrence Public Schools' students, it is recommended that the board adopt the attached Resolution encouraging the City of Lawrence to adopt an ordinance increasing the legal minimum age for the sale of all tobacco and nicotine products to age 21.

Motion:

"I move the Board of Education adopt the Resolution encouraging the City of Lawrence to adopt an ordinance increasing the legal minimum age for the sale of all tobacco and nicotine products to age 21."



**Resolution of the
Board of Education of Unified School District No. 497,
Douglas County, Kansas (Lawrence Public Schools)
to City of Lawrence for Adoption of Ordinance
Increasing the Legal Minimum Age to 21
for Sale of all Tobacco and Nicotine Products**

WHEREAS, adolescent smoking rates have been coming down, nearly one in five high school seniors still uses tobacco; and,

WHEREAS, adolescents' use of e-cigarettes, nicotine vapor devices, hookahs and small cigars has gone up dramatically, threatening to completely erase a decade of progress; and,

WHEREAS, during the years from ages 18-21, youthful experimentation often accelerates into daily use. It is a time when the adolescent brain is highly vulnerable to the effects of a powerful addictive agent like nicotine. Exposure during this period may result in permanent neurological receptor changes that lead to a lifetime nicotine habit and resulting illness; and,

WHEREAS, raising the nicotine/tobacco age also better protects younger teens, as 90% of those who provide cigarettes to kids under 18 are themselves under 21. As a result, raising the tobacco sales age to 21 has been shown to reduce high school smoking by over 50%; and,

WHEREAS, the "Tobacco 21" Initiative is a nationwide movement to encourage governmental entities to adopt ordinances (or their equivalents) to raise the legal minimum age for sale of all tobacco and nicotine products to age 21;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Education of Unified School District No. 497, Douglas County, Kansas (Lawrence Public Schools) that the City of Lawrence is encouraged to adopt an ordinance increasing the legal minimum age for the sale of all tobacco and nicotine products to age 21.

Marcel Harmon
President, Board of Education

Janice E. Dunn
Clerk, Board of Education

Date: _____