



**Mendocino County Health & Human Services Agency**

*Healthy People, Healthy Communities*

**Andrew Coren, M.D., County Health Officer**  
Public Health



November 1, 2020

Chairperson Haschak  
County of Mendocino Board of Supervisors  
501 Low Gap Road  
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Chairperson Haschak and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to support the changes before you in Chapter 6.20, Licensure of Tobacco retailers of the Mendocino County Code.

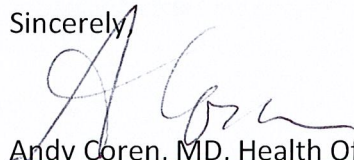
Tobacco products have proven extremely harmful to all people, costing suffering and death and millions of dollars in medical care. This is especially a risk for youth who are attracted to this adult like behavior and quickly become addicted.

This Board and other governmental agencies in our state and country have acknowledged this for years and written laws to prevent sales to minors. However, the tobacco industry has responded and evolved in recent years to make these products more attractive to youth, whom they cynically treat as a new market to exploit with flavorings and new modalities of delivery.

However, the harm of these tobacco and nicotine products has not decreased. The proposed additions and modifications are necessary to prevent severe consequences to the health of our youth and our community.

I respectfully encourage a unanimous yes vote on the proposed changes to Mendocino County Code Chapter 6.20.

Sincerely,

  
Andy Coren, MD, Health Officer  
County of Mendocino