



September 9, 2021

Dear Senator,

We urge you to call on the members of the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety to hear and pass SB 355. SB 355 puts Wisconsin in compliance with the new federal age for purchasing tobacco and nicotine products.

Congress raised the tobacco and nicotine-vape purchase age to 21. That was the first step. Until our state law is changed to conform with the federal action, law enforcement is unable to enforce this change. In Wisconsin, local law enforcement only has the authority to enforce local ordinances and state laws.

The current situation has led to confusion among parents, enforcement officials, high schools, retailers and the public. We ask that you join us in supporting SB 355 to allow for the enforcement of the new federal tobacco age and to prevent Wisconsin from losing federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funds.

Here's what SB 355 does:

- Makes it illegal for **ANY RETAILER** to sell tobacco or nicotine products including non-nicotine vapor products to anyone under the age set by the federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, which is currently 21.
- Makes it illegal for any **PERSON** to purchase tobacco or nicotine products including non-nicotine vapor products if they are under the age set by the federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, which is currently 21.

Thank you for your consideration.

Wisconsin Grocers Association Inc.
Wisconsin Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association
Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce
Milwaukee Metropolitan Association of Commerce

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