

**MEDICAL SOCIETY**  
of the  
**STATE OF NEW YORK**

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*Division of Governmental Affairs*  
**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT**

**ON ASSEMBLY CODES  
COMMITTEE AGENDA**

**A.277 (PAULIN)**

**AN ACT to amend the public health law, in  
relation to prohibiting the sale of flavored  
tobacco products**

This measure would prohibit the sale of flavored tobacco products such as cigars that are not hand-made, chewing tobacco, snuff, and rolling paper in order to decrease the incidence of tobacco use among children. **The Medical Society of the State of New York supports this bill.**

The U. S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently banned the sale of flavored cigarettes because of their appeal to children. New York City expanded that ban to include flavored cigars and flavored smokeless tobacco products such as snuff and chewing tobacco.

The National Cancer Institute conducted a study which shows that cigar smokers are as likely as cigarette smokers to develop oral, throat, and esophageal cancers. According to the study, those who use smokeless tobacco products significantly increase their risk of developing cancers of the lip, tongue, cheeks and gums.

Likelihood of addiction to tobacco increases the earlier a person begins using tobacco products. Preventing the sale of products that appeal to children will help to prevent long-term use that leads to tobacco-related illnesses, increased medical costs, and tobacco-related deaths.

This bill is a natural extension of the ban on flavored cigarettes and **the Medical Society of the State of New York supports it and urges that it be passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

4/16/18  
PFC

**MSSNY DIVISION OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**