

RESOLUTION

Resolution: 301C.20

SUBJECT: Menthol Products

SUBMITTED BY: Medical Association of Atlanta and Task Force on Diversity

REFERRED TO: Reference Committee C

1 Whereas, the African American population has been targeted for the promotion of menthol cigarettes by
2 the tobacco industry for decades; and

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4 Whereas, 89 per cent of tobacco smoking African American adults prefer menthol cigarettes; and

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6 Whereas, the number one preventable cause of death in all Americans is tobacco (489,000 death annually)
7 and African Americans represent a disproportionate share of those deaths (45,000 annually); and

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9 Whereas, tobacco kills 11,700 Georgians annually and costs over \$3 billion in health care expenses each
10 year; and

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12 Whereas, all menthol cigarettes have been eliminated from Canada, the European Union countries and
13 Ethiopia; and

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15 Whereas, menthol cigarettes are used to attract young non-smokers and provide a “soothing” and pleasant
16 sensation to cover over the harsh irritation caused by over 7000 chemicals commonly found in cigarettes;
17 and

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19 Whereas, youth under the age of 21 are initiating the use of tobacco and nicotine-containing products at
20 an increasing rate due to the presence of menthol and other unregulated flavors; and

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22 Whereas, the FDA in 2009 banned all flavors other than menthol in cigarettes to protect the American
23 public, particularly children, from being attracted cigarettes; and

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25 Whereas the African American Tobacco Leadership Conference (AATLC) and the Action on
26 Smoking and Health (ASH) have filed a lawsuit to compel the FDA to carry out its statutory duties
27 under the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, and to add menthol to the original list of
28 prohibited “characterizing flavors;” now therefore be it

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30 **RESOLVED, that the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) will advocate for legislation that**
31 **will eliminate the sale of all nicotine-containing products with menthol within the State of Georgia;**
32 **and be it further**

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34 **RESOLVED that MAG will advocate that enforcement of this legislation be directed exclusively at**
35 **the retail sale of such products and not at possession of the same; and be it further**

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37 **RESOLVED that the MAG delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA) present a**
38 **resolution to the AMA to reaffirm policy on tobacco sales and flavoring, with the goal of making**
39 **the sale of nicotine-containing products with menthol illegal in all states.**

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AMA Policy

Opposition to Exempting the Addition of Menthol to Cigarettes H-495.976

Our AMA: (1) will continue to support a ban on the use and marketing of menthol in cigarettes as a harmful additive; and (2) encourages and will assist its members to seek state bans on the sale of menthol cigarettes.

Opposition to Addition of Flavors to Tobacco Products H-495.971

Our AMA: (1) supports state and local legislation to prohibit the sale or distribution of all flavored tobacco products, including menthol, mint and wintergreen flavors; (2) urges local and state medical societies and federation members to support state and local legislation to prohibit the sale or distribution of all flavored tobacco products; and (3) encourages the FDA to prohibit the use of all flavoring agents in tobacco products, which includes electronic nicotine delivery systems as well as combustible cigarettes, cigars and smokeless tobacco.

MAG Policy

None