



Restricting the Sale of Cigars and Requiring Minimum Package Sizes

Background

Laws or regulations requiring cigars to be sold in packages of four or more and at an arbitrary minimum price have been adopted, or are being considered, by a number of local and state legislative bodies.

Arguments Against Restricting Sale of Single Cigars or Requiring Minimum Package Sizes

- Laws and regulations to ban the sale of cigars in packages of less than four and at a minimum price will not address the issue of minors accessing tobacco products.
- Retailers are responsible business people and are not in the business of selling cigars to underage buyers, as it is illegal to sell any tobacco products to minors.
- Claims that retailers are the source of tobacco products for minors are not supported by FDA compliance check data. According to FDA reports, approximately 90 percent of retailers pass compliance checks.
- A sales ban on certain categories of cigars will lead to adult consumers finding other sources to buy their preferred tobacco products. In the case of local regulations, legal-aged tobacco consumers will simply travel to nearby towns for tobacco purchases. Retailers in restricted communities will not only lose tobacco sales, but will also lose the opportunity to sell other items such as fuel, snacks, and groceries.
- Laws and regulations may also push adult tobacco consumers to buy their tobacco products online, resulting in lost sales to retailers with fixed locations. Lost sales can lead to lost jobs and jeopardize the future of family-supported businesses. Many adult premium cigar consumers smoke one cigar per week or month. Requiring them to purchase four or six cigars is counterintuitive and does nothing to reduce youth access.
- Restricting the sale of single cigars or requiring package sizes be a minimum of four or six cigars is a solution in search of a problem. This is supported by national government surveys, which demonstrate that illegal youth usage of cigars is low.