



Upper Missouri District Health Unit

"Your Public Health Professionals"

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Testimony

Senate Bill 2281

House Finance and Taxation

March 11, 2025

Good morning, Chairman Headland and members of the committee. I am Javayne Oyloe, Executive Officer of Upper Missouri District Health Unit (UMDHU). I have worked in public health for nearly 29 years. I worked primarily in tobacco prevention for 13 of those years. UMDHU provides local public health services to Divide, McKenzie, Mountrail and Williams Counties.

We have seen an increase in new tobacco products, and we know youth nicotine use is unsafe. For that reason, I appreciate inclusion of alternative tobacco products and electronic smoking devices in this bill as people are looking for ways to quit using these products, and a substantial increase in taxes can reduce tobacco use. I am in support of a taxing structure that provides another tool for people when they are ready to quit using tobacco and alternative products.

Local public health appreciates the support and forethought that went into this bill to provide funding to local public health and 988 for people in crisis. Local public health is the safety net for communities, and we are grateful for legislative support.