

*Complaining about a problem  
without proposing a solution  
is called whining.  
-Teddy Roosevelt*



**Bette B. Grande**  
*President & CEO*

Chairman Dockter and members of the House Political Subdivision Committee,

I encourage the passage of SB 2156, North Dakota should enact age 21 as the legal age to purchase tobacco products.

Differences in minimum age requirements at the federal, state, and regional levels adds confusion to consumers and retailers, and lead to ineffective enforcement. Underage smoking has become a topic of various laws and with the federal government passage of the T21 banning the sales of move this to enforcement of all tobacco and other sales of products to 21.

The Department of Defense raised the minimum age for tobacco sales from 18 to 21 years of age beginning Aug. 1, 2020. Tobacco-sale age went to 21 on military bases, ships in US ports started on August 2020. The rule affects the sale of cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, hookah tobacco, cigars, pipe tobacco and vaping supplies, such as e-cigarettes and e-liquids.

Legislation passed December 2019, raised the minimum age for the sale of tobacco products in the U.S. by three years from 18, providing no military exemption.

"We know that those soldiers don't do as well on their [physical fitness] tests; it takes them longer to heal and ... there is a direct correlation between tobacco use and musculoskeletal injuries," Fitzgerald said. "We are asking them to support the law because the bottom line is it's our enduring obligation to take care of our people, and the health and welfare of our soldiers and their families is of the utmost importance for our continued readiness." -- *Matthew Cox can be reached at [matthew.cox@military.com](mailto:matthew.cox@military.com).*

We join others to support of the passage of this bill to bring easy to the retailers that can cause of confusion between sellers and consumers.

Thank you for your consideration.

For Liberty,

Bette Grande, CEO

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bette Grande". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.