FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ASPPH Endorses FDA Decision to Begin Regulatory Process for Flavor in Cigarettes and Ban of all Characterizing Flavors in Cigars

The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) strongly endorses the Food and Drug Administration’s decision to begin the regulatory process to ban menthol as a characterizing flavor in cigarettes and ban all characterizing flavors (including menthol) in cigars. The science is clear: the removal of menthol flavored cigarettes and cigars from the marketplace will benefit the public health in the United States. By masking the harshness and soothing the irritation caused by tobacco smoke, menthol cigarettes make it easier for beginners to experiment with cigarettes and ultimately become addicted. Young smokers and Black Americans are much more likely to use menthol cigarettes than any other demographic.

The FDA’s announcement begins a lengthy regulatory process that has the potential to save millions of lives. ASPPH and its member schools and programs plan to actively engage in the regulatory process related to the FDA’s announcement. In light of the FDA’s announcement, we urge all members of the public health and medical communities to intensify efforts to assist all cigarette smokers to quit.

The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) is a 501c3 membership organization located in Washington, DC. ASPPH’s mission is to strengthen the capacity of our 129 member schools and programs by advancing leadership, excellence, and collaboration for academic public health. Our members are CEPH-accredited schools and programs of public health as well as schools and programs in applicant status for CEPH-accreditation.

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