Benefits of Tobacco 21

- **Protects kids**
  - In suburban Cook County, 1 in 3 high school seniors has used tobacco.\(^1\)
  - Kids who use tobacco commonly get it from people between ages 18-20.\(^2\)
  - The brain is still developing during the late teens and early 20s, and the probability of nicotine addiction is especially high during this time.\(^2\)
  - Youth addicted to nicotine are 7 times more likely to have a drug use disorder.\(^3\)

- **Proven to work**
  - People who have not used tobacco by age 21 are unlikely to ever start.\(^2\)
  - Research shows that a sales age of 21 across the U.S. could result in:
    - 249,000 fewer premature deaths
    - 286,000 fewer pre-term births
    - 438,000 fewer babies with low birth weight\(^2\)

- **Pays off**
  - Smoking-related illnesses hurt our health and wealth. Hospital patients who smoke have longer stays and higher medical costs than non-smokers.\(^2\)
  - A sales age of 21 across the U.S. would save society an estimated $212 billion dollars over a 50-year period.\(^4\)

- **Popular across the USA**
  - 75% of adults support raising the age of 21, including 70% of smokers.\(^5\)
  - California, Hawaii, & more than 200 U.S. cities have already raised the age to 21.