

# A Menthol Cigarette is Just Another Cigarette

AND SHOULD BE REGULATED NO DIFFERENTLY THAN OTHER CIGARETTES

**FDA has concluded “that menthol in cigarettes is not associated with an increase in tobacco-related diseases to the user” when compared to non-menthol cigarettes.<sup>1</sup>**

Numerous scientific studies demonstrate menthol cigarettes are not more addictive, nor result in increased inhalation of smoke compared to non-menthol cigarettes.<sup>2</sup>

## Banning menthol will lead to unintended consequences

8.5 % to 21%



2015

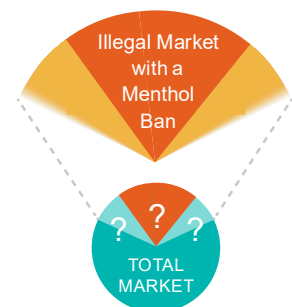
### FUEL AN ALREADY WIDESPREAD ILLEGAL TOBACCO MARKET

- Per the U.S. Department of State, “cigarette smuggling is a growing threat to U.S. national interests...and fuels transnational crime, corruption and terrorism.”<sup>3</sup>
- The Institute of Medicine wrote in a 2015 report to Congress: the U.S. illegal cigarette market was between 8.5% and 21% of the total market.<sup>4</sup>

### LAW ENFORCEMENT GROUPS SAY A BAN ON MENTHOL WOULD:<sup>5</sup>

- Increase the number of criminals on the street
- Make criminals out of law-abiding citizens
- Create more problems between law enforcement and communities of color

8.5 % to ???%



WITH A MENTHOL BAN

**There is no reason to treat menthol cigarettes any differently than non-menthol cigarettes. Smoking rates for menthol and non-menthol cigarettes are at historic lows and continue to decline. Furthermore, Massachusetts’ 2020 menthol ban did not result in lower smoking rates.**



<sup>1</sup> FDA Preliminary Scientific Evaluation of the Possible Public Health Effects of Menthol Versus Nonmenthol Cigarettes, (2013).

<sup>2</sup> Addiction: Fagan et al. (2015); Hyland et al. (2002). Inhalation: Gunawan & Juliano (2020); Ahijevych et al. (1996).

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of State et al, The Global Illicit Trade in Tobacco: A Threat to National Security (2015).

<sup>4</sup> National Academy of Sciences, Engineering & Med., Understanding the U.S. Illicit Tobacco Market (2015).

<sup>5</sup> ATF, FOP, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), Alabama State Trooper Association