

**PRESS STATEMENT**  
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**PRESS CONTACT**  
Dr. NFN Scout  
E: [scout@cancer-network.org](mailto:scout@cancer-network.org) | C: 401-267-8337

## Statement of National LGBT Cancer Network on FDA's Proposed Menthol Ban

*The following statement can be attributed to NFN Scout, PhD,  
Executive Director, National LGBT Cancer Network.*

“The National LGBT Cancer Network is extremely pleased to see that FDA is finally moving forward with a menthol ban. Not only is menthol used disproportionately by LGBTQ+ people but higher tobacco use rates are arguably the leading health challenge our communities face. In addition, research shows when compared to the general population, a greater percent of LGBTQ+ communities are made up of Black and Latinx people, overlapping populations also disproportionately hurt by menthol use. Since menthol makes it easier to start smoking and harder to quit, the disproportionate use by these key populations has driven years of persistent addiction and health disparities.

It is time to address the needs of all populations with smart tobacco control policy. It is time to end the era when the flavor most used by disparity populations is the single flavor tobacco companies are still allowed to sell.”

*The following statement can be attributed to Gabe Glissmeyer, Manager of Out Proud & Free.*

“When talking to LGBTQ+ youth and young adults about their experiences using menthol tobacco products, I often hear stories of using these products to combat the stress of coping with transphobia and homophobia. Especially considering the wave of anti-trans legislation being proposed across the country, we need to build positive coping strategies for our vulnerable community members, not strategies that make it easier to slide into long term and life-threatening addictive habits.”

This statement is available online [here](#).

*The National LGBT Cancer Network works to improve the lives of LGBTQ+ cancer survivors and those at risk by educating the LGBTQ+ communities about our increased cancer risks; training health care providers; and advocating for LGBTQ+ engagement in mainstream cancer organizations. Learn more at [cancer-network.org](http://cancer-network.org).*