

# “Little Cigars” Are No Little Matter

Cheap, under regulated tobacco products put our kids at risk and undermine the integrity of our laws.

## The Problem with Little Cigars

- Functionally little cigars are cigarettes. However, because they are wrapped in brown paper, they have been misclassified in law as an “other tobacco product.”
- This loophole unfairly gives favorable tax and regulatory treatment to little cigars.
- The solution is to classify little cigars as cigarettes by fixing the current definition of cigarette in the tax and commerce statutes.

## The Cigarette Uniformity Act – A Common Sense Solution

The Cigarette Uniformity Act broadens the statutory definition of cigarettes to include little cigars. This change means little cigars:

- will be subject to the same taxes and fees as cigarettes,
- will be required to have Department of Revenue tax stamps to ensure tax compliance and reduce tax evasion, and
- will be subject to the state’s minimum price law.

The law should treat similar products the same. It’s time to close the little cigar loophole.



Little difference exists between a cigarette and a little cigar. Both are filtered, come in packs of 20 and are similar in size and weight. The only difference is little cigars have tobacco pulp in their rolling paper turning it brown. This technicality allows them to escape proper taxation and regulation.

The Cigarette Uniformity Act is supported by a coalition of health organizations including: AARP Minnesota, Allina Hospitals & Clinics, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Association for Nonsmokers – Minnesota, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, Catalyst, Children’s Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota, ClearWay Minnesota<sup>SM</sup>, Courage Center, HealthPartners, LAAMPP Institute, Local Public Health Association, MAATEN, Mayo Clinic, Medica, Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians, Minnesota Cancer Alliance, Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Minnesota Council of Health Plans, Minnesota Medical Association, Minnesota Public Health Association, Park Nicollet, School Nurse Organization of Minnesota and Twin Cities Medical Society.