



Altria Supports Bicameral, Bipartisan Legislation to Raise the Age of Purchase for All Tobacco Products to 21

RICHMOND, Va. (May 1, 2019) – Altria Group, Inc. (Altria) (NYSE:MO) -- In response to legislation introduced by Senators Schatz (D-HI), Young (R-IN), Durbin (D-III) and Romney (R-UT), and Representatives DeGette (D-CO), Stewart (R-UT), Herrera Beutler (R-WA), Flores (R-TX) and Wittman (R-VA) to raise the age of purchase for all tobacco products to 21, Altria Group Chairman and CEO Howard Willard said:

“Altria strongly supports raising the legal age of purchase to 21 for all tobacco products and we’re pleased to see bipartisan, bicameral tobacco 21 legislation introduced. Now is the time to move on 21, which Altria believes is the most immediate and effective action to reverse underage e-vapor usage rates.”

Tobacco 21 has broad, bipartisan support both in the Senate and the House, and among voters of all ages and regions of the US. Altria has voiced support for bipartisan tobacco 21 legislation introduced in the House and for Senator McConnell’s leadership on legislation that he will introduce in the Senate.

The number one way kids today get access to tobacco products is by obtaining them from legal age purchasers. Approximately 80% of high school students in the U.S. turn 18 years old before graduation. By raising the minimum age to 21, high school students will not be able to purchase tobacco products legally, adding another hurdle to help reduce social access.

So far in 2019, eight states have passed or enacted legislation to raise the legal age of purchase to 21: Arkansas, Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, New York, Utah, Virginia and Washington, bringing the total number of states to 14 (covering more than 38% of the U.S. population). According to FDA data, more than 20 million adult smokers in the U.S. want access to alternative products that may offer less risk than cigarettes, including technologies like e-vapor and heat-not-burn tobacco products which offer tremendous promise in this area. But the FDA has made clear that the future viability of these products is in jeopardy unless more is done to reverse the underage e-vapor use trend. Raising the legal age to 21 is a pivotal step to addressing this issue.

Altria Profile

Altria's wholly-owned subsidiaries include Philip Morris USA Inc. (PM USA), U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company LLC (USSTC), John Middleton Co. (Middleton), Sherman Group Holdings, LLC and its subsidiaries (Nat Sherman), Ste. Michelle Wine Estates Ltd. (Ste. Michelle) and Philip Morris Capital Corporation (PMCC). Altria holds equity investments in Anheuser-Busch InBev SA/NV (AB InBev), JUUL Labs, Inc. (JUUL) and Cronos Group Inc. (Cronos Group).

The brand portfolios of Altria's tobacco operating companies include *Marlboro*®, *Black & Mild*®, *Copenhagen*® and *Skoal*®. Ste. Michelle produces and markets premium wines sold under various labels, including *Chateau Ste. Michelle*®, *Columbia Crest*®, *14 Hands*® and *Stag's Leap Wine Cellars*™, and it imports and markets *Antinori*®, *Champagne Nicolas Feuillatte*™, *Torres*® and *Villa Maria Estate*™ products in the United States. Trademarks and service marks related to Altria referenced in this release are the property of Altria or its subsidiaries or are used with permission.

More information about Altria is available at altria.com and on the Altria Investor app, or follow us on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

Source: Altria Group, Inc.

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