

IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY

# SPEAK UP!

AUGUST 2019

*"Serving in the Four-State area for over 15 years"*

Speak Up Community News promotes the Culture, Health and Success of the community. Subscription is free. Articles and remarks are welcomed. Contact: Brothers Who Care, 131 W. North Avenue, Martin Luther King Community Center, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740. Phone (301) 393-9290. Download a full-color copy of this news publication at: [www.brotherswhocare.org](http://www.brotherswhocare.org)

## HEALTH NEWS

### Why would Tobacco Companies support "Tobacco 21"

*The legal age to buy tobacco and nicotine products in Maryland will be raised from 18 to 21(including vaping products) effective in October 2019.*



Reports indicate that the rise in teen vaping helped more states, including Maryland to raise the legal age to purchase tobacco even though public health advocates are wary the effort is supported by the tobacco industry and the company that makes the Juul vaping device, which is heavily used by teens. Federal authorities declared that teen vaping an "epidemic". The Juul company is the leader in vaping products that have been heavily used by teens; it is suspected that the product flavors and concealable design of the vape device targets youth. Altria, one of the largest tobacco companies in the U.S. and Juul are backing efforts that would increase

the nationwide purchasing to 21 and this is one of the reasons why:

Most licensed tobacco retailers do wish to legally provide tobacco products for their customers who are of age and the retailers are participating in efforts to do that more effectively, even using training provided by their businesses and the health departments. Retailers have shown they care about efforts to protect minors from purchasing tobacco illegally as reflected in compliance checks and increasing their own internal policies such as checking identification for all customers attempting to purchase tobacco products, while state laws may only require checking if the person appears to look a certain age.

Face-to-face tobacco sales will likely drop in states that adopt the "Tobacco 21" laws and bordering states will likely pick up the business for those who can legally purchase tobacco at ages 18 through 20. The big concern is that the Tobacco industry will cash in on increased online sales, especially for vape product since online sales cannot be regulated like face-to-face purchases or really identify the online purchaser. Online sales will increase eventually cutting out most tobacco retailers that sell tobacco products at their place of business thus eliminating the "middle man" and tobacco companies sharing profits with resellers.



# *Soul Day Reunion On Wheaton Park*



**Saturday – August 17, 2019**

**2PM to 6PM**

**Wheaton Park**

**Hagerstown, Maryland**

**This is a RAIN or SHINE event. Bring your chairs, canopy, blankets and an umbrella in case of light rain. For more information or to participate as a vendor call 301-393-9290**

***Music, Fun & Reminisce***