

Appendix A – Bill 45 MPP Letter

April 2, 2015

(Name), MPP
(Address)
(Address)

RE: Bill 45, the Making Healthier Choices Act, 2014.

Dear (Name);

We, the *One Life One You* youth leader group of the Middlesex-London Health Unit, would like to commend the provincial government for introducing Bill 45, the *Making Healthier Choices Act, 2014*. There are many reasons why we feel that this Bill should be passed in our provincial parliament, and we would like to take this opportunity to explain why the proposed legislation is so important for youth in our community.

As a group of youth passionate about public health and tobacco use prevention, the passing of Bill 45 particularly interests us. Currently, there is no legislation that regulates electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), and therefore, e-cigarettes can legally be sold to and used by youth. E-cigarettes are normalizing the act of smoking and reversing all of the good work tobacco control has accomplished. The *Making Healthier Choices Act* would restrict e-cigarettes from being promoted or sold to youth under the age of 19.

In addition, the tobacco industry adds fruit and candy flavours to tobacco products to make them more appealing to youth. Chew tobacco, cigarillos and electronic cigarettes are types of flavoured tobacco products that are most popular among youth in our schools. The *Making Healthier Choices Act* includes a ban on the sale of all flavoured tobacco products including menthol, which would decrease the likelihood of our peers and future generations of youth from using tobacco products.

We have been involved in a number of activities to promote and gain support of Bill 45 among our peers. First, we collected a total of 990 signatures of support from our fellow students at seven local high schools in London and Middlesex County (please see the photograph included in your package). Next, we hosted the "Skate to Advocate for Bill 45 Event" on February 7, 2015 at the Covent Garden Market in London, ON. Approximately 65 members of the public attended our event and showed their support for Bill 45. Finally, we encouraged 345 of our friends, classmates and family members to sign a "Thanks Ontario" postcard (a selection of these have been included in your package). The success of these activities allows us to confidently say that our peers in London and Middlesex strongly support the passing of Bill 45.

Bill 45 is crucial for the future health of youth like us. The *Making Healthier Choices Act* will help us become the first tobacco-free generation!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
One Life One You



Emily Clayton

Molly Miller

Isabelle Haas

Claudia Paguaga

Jamie Wakefield

Courtney Maslen

Mark Pitblado

Jillian Smith