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**CONTACT:** Kirsten Voinis, 512-922-7141  
or [kvoinis@kvoinis.com](mailto:kvoinis@kvoinis.com)

**TEXAS 21 COALITION STATEMENT ON  
AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION “STATE OF TOBACCO CONTROL” REPORT**

The Texas 21 Coalition – representing 74 public health organizations – issued the statement below today in response to the American Lung Association’s 17<sup>th</sup> annual [“State of Tobacco Control”](#) report. The ALA gave Texas an “F” grade in five areas, including “Minimum Age of Sale for Tobacco Products to 21.”

For a second legislative session, the Texas 21 Coalition is supporting legislation to raise the minimum legal sale age of tobacco products (including e-cigarettes) to 21 in Texas. Those bills are HB 749 by Rep. John Zerwas, M.D., (R-Richmond), and SB 338 by Sen. Joan Huffman (R-Houston).

The following statement can be attributed to Claudia Rodas, southern region director, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids:

“The Texas 21 Coalition is committed to turning this ‘F’ into an ‘A’ by the end of the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas legislative session. We hope this report shows lawmakers that the time is right to raise the age for the sale of tobacco products and e-cigarettes to 21 and save our kids’ lives. Parents overwhelmingly agree – more than two-thirds of Texans support keeping tobacco products out of the hands of those under age 21.”

In Texas, 7.4 percent (118,600) of high school students smoke and 10.3 percent report using e-cigarettes. In addition, 10,400 kids under age 18 become new daily smokers each year, according to [data compiled by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids](#).

Six states have raised the minimum tobacco sale age to 21, along with at least 430 localities, including San Antonio in Texas.

*The Texas 21 Coalition includes [74 health organizations](#), including the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Texas Academy of Family Physicians, Texas Medical Association, Texas Pediatric Society and Texas Public Health Coalition. The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center is present as an educational resource only. More information can be found at [www.texas21.org](http://www.texas21.org). Follow the Coalition on Facebook at [/texastobacco21](#) and Twitter at [@TexasTobacco21](#).*