



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND MENTAL HYGIENE**
Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH
Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, August 9, 2017
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**STATEMENT FROM HEALTH COMMISSIONER DR. MARY T. BASSETT ON
PASSING OF COMPREHENSIVE TOBACCO LEGISLATION PACKAGE**

August 9, 2017 – “The City today took a major stride toward improving the health of New Yorkers by passing a comprehensive legislative package to further curtail tobacco use. We thank the City Council for working with the de Blasio administration in the drafting of these bills, which will save lives. We particularly thank Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and the bill sponsors, Council Members Johnson, Cabrera, Landers, Vacca and Torres, for ushering these bills through the legislative process and bringing them to a vote today. With this legislation New York City will be at the vanguard of tobacco control in the nation. These comprehensive bills will make a range of tobacco products less accessible by capping the number of locations at which they can be sold; removing these products from pharmacies; and increasing prices. They also take steps towards reducing secondhand smoke exposure at home. This means that fewer New Yorkers will start smoking and many more will quit. In the end, thousands of New Yorkers will lead longer, healthier lives thanks to the hard work of the City Council, the Mayor’s Office, the Health Department, the Department of Finance, and the Department of Consumer Affairs.”

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