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STATEMENT FROM NYSACHO PRESIDENT PAUL PETTIT

**LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS LAUD ASSEMBLY FOR PASSING BILL RAISING
LEGAL TOBACCO PURCHASE AGE TO 21**

“Today’s action by the Assembly is a critical step in our battle against tobacco related illnesses. We are grateful for their leadership and support, particularly Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal who was the chief sponsor of the legislation. Tobacco use is one of the most common sources of preventable illness and premature death. Nearly all of today’s adult smokers began smoking before the age of 21, and we know from research that changing from an experimental smoker to a regular smoker typically occurs around age 20. That’s why this law is so critically important. We look forward to seeing this legislation become law, and we are hopeful that our leaders in the Legislature and the Governor’s office will demonstrate the same concern for public health when considering the legalization of adult use regulated cannabis.”