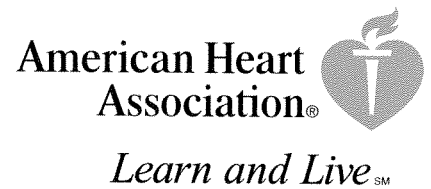


Every year more than
three million volunteers
contribute their time and
talents to help our organization
defeat heart disease and
blood vessel disease —
and save lives.



**Baltimore City Health Department
210 Guilford Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21209
Attention: Rianna Brown**

June 27, 2008

Dear Ms. Brown;

The American Heart Association enthusiastically supports the Baltimore City Health Department's proposed regulation to ban the sale of individual/single cigars, a popular item among youth. This regulation would require that cigars be sold in packs of five, thus increasing the purchase price of these items.

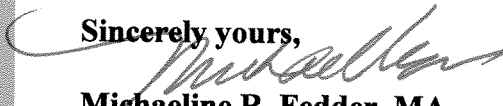
Currently single cigars are targeted to young smokers because they are cheap. Increasing the price, we know, would make them less available to this market which is most price-sensitive.

Cigars are public health hazards which, when used as directed, increase the risk of cancer and heart disease. They are also considered a gateway to heavy cigarette smoking and to consumption of illegal drugs. And studies have shown that young smokers become addicted more rapidly to tobacco products.

Anything we can do to reduce or prevent the use of cigars should be done as quickly as possible to protect the health of our young people and reduce the costs of treating the illnesses that result from the use of these products.

The American Heart Association applauds the Baltimore City Health Department for its ongoing commitment to taking on the difficult Public Health challenges necessary to protect the residents of and visitors to our beloved city.

Sincerely yours,


**Michaeline R. Fedder, MA
Director of Government Affairs, Maryland**