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**STATEMENT FROM NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY HEALTH  
OFFICIALS (NYSACHO) PRESIDENT DANIEL J. STAPLETON**

**GOVERNOR CUOMO SIGNS BILL SAFEGUARDING RESIDENTS FROM  
TOBACCO-RELATED ILLNESS BY RAISING LEGAL TOBACCO  
PURCHASE AGE TO 21**

(Albany, New York. July 16, 2019) “Today Governor Andrew M. Cuomo signed a law into effect that will further protect New Yorkers from tobacco-related illnesses by raising the purchase age to 21. This law is another critical and historic step in our fight to prevent millions of New Yorkers from developing tobacco related illnesses.

“We applaud Governor Cuomo for taking quick action and signing this bill into law. Furthermore, we commend bill sponsors Senator Diane Savino and Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal who worked tirelessly to ensure its passage in the 2019 Legislative Session.

“NYSACHO and our members will continue to provide expertise and support to help lawmakers craft policy that protects and improves public health, and we look forward to more public health victories in the upcoming 2020-21 State Budget.”

*Daniel J. Stapleton is the President of NYSACHO, which represents all 58 of New York State’s local health departments. He also serves as Public Health Director for the Niagara County Department of Health.*

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