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FDA reviewing whether to ban menthol cigarettes - washingtonpost.com

In an effort to discourage young smokers from starting, the FDA is looking into whether to expand the ban on flavored cigarettes to menthol flavoring which is used by lots of new smokers because of its minty taste which makes the cigarette less harsh. Previously, menthol was exempted, but there is new pressure to get rid of them as well as clove and other flavors that have already been banned.

This is truly a difficult concept because the FDA is getting further into regulating personal choices. I am all for protecting people, but many people will argue that a person has a right to damage their own body.

I think we should all just get on a health kick and not smoke, but I know it is hard. Check out the link below for the whole story.

When Congress passed a historic law last year that gave the FDA the power to regulate tobacco, it also banned candy and spice flavorings such as chocolate and clove, saying cigarette makers used those products to hook youngsters into a lifetime addiction. But it exempted menthol from the ban, saying it wanted the FDA to study the issue and report by 2012 whether restrictions on it would serve the public health.

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