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For Immediate Release

April 29, 2021

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Biden Administration Moves to Protect Black Americans and Kids from the Ravages of Menthol Tobacco Products

Silver Spring, MD... Today, the FDA announced its decision to initiate rulemaking to prohibit the promotion of menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars to Black Americans and to kids. “The National Black Nurses Association stands with the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids and other organizations in support of this landmark effort to prevent kids from starting the habit of smoking and to stop so many Black Americans from getting sick and dying from the use of tobacco products designed to make it easier to smoke,” stated Dr. Martha A. Dawson, President, National Black Nurses Association.

The FDA initiative will help stop kids from beginning a life-long addiction to tobacco, ultimately shortening their lives due to tobacco-related illnesses such as lung cancer, emphysema, heart disease, stroke and diabetes. Moreover, it has been found that smoking increases the risk of severe illness from COVID-19 due to decreased breathing capacity.

NBNA salutes the Biden Administration for moving in the right direction to ban flavored tobacco products, menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars. “African Americans already suffer from health disparities at levels more than their Caucasian counterparts. This ban could substantially improve the health status of our youth and African Americans so that they can lead healthy and productive lives”, stated Dr. Dawson.