



February 26, 2026

Est. 1988

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

President

Luis Vazquez
LIHCC

Dear Governor Hochul,

Secretary

Pilar Delgado
Adelante of
Suffolk County, Inc

I am writing to express my heartfelt concern for our community. As President of the Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, I see firsthand the struggles and aspirations of our families and our business owners.

We stand against the proposed 75% tax on nicotine pouches in the state budget.

Treasurer

Pilar Delgado
Interim

We understand the goal is health. But for many in our community, this tax will hurt, not help.

Board Members

Elizabeth Custodio
M&T Bank

It will place a painful barrier for adults who are trying to leave deadly cigarettes behind. By making safer alternatives nearly as expensive as cigarettes, this tax targets the very people – often in low-income communities like ours—who need a practical way out of addiction the most. It punishes the choice to be healthier.

Xiomara Leto
TD Bank

Our community already carries a heavy burden from smoking-related illness. This policy risks making that burden worse by punishing people away from less harmful options and toward the unregulated, dangerous illegal market.

We share your commitment to protecting our youth, but this tax won't solve that. It will however make it harder for parents and workers in our community to choose a better path.

Please do not put another obstacle in front of families striving for better health.

Reject this tax!

With respect,

Luis A. Vazquez

Luis A. Vazquez
President, Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce