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 California Department of Public Health
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RE: 2015-2016 Second Extraordinary Session - Tobacco Related Bills: Support

Dear Dr. Smith:

The CCLHO Executive Committee voted to recommend support for a number of tobacco related bills introduced in the 2015-2016 2nd Extraordinary Session. These bills include:

- SBX2-5 (Leno): Electronic Cigarettes; that would change the STAKE Act's definition of "tobacco products" to include electronic cigarettes, and require childproof packaging on electronic cigarette cartridges;
- SBX2-6 (Monning): Smoking in the Workplace; would expand the prohibition on smoking in a place of employment to include an owner-operated business, and eliminate most of the existing exemptions that permit smoking in certain workplaces, such as hotel lobbies, bars and taverns, etc.;
- SBX2-7 (Hernandez): Tobacco products: Minimum Legal Age; would raise the minimum legal age to purchase tobacco products to 21 years of age;
- SBX2-8 (Liu): Tobacco Use Programs; that would prohibit the use of tobacco and nicotine products, including electronic cigarettes, on school district properties; and
- SBX2-9 (McGuire): Local Taxes: Cigarettes and Tobacco Products; would authorize a Board of Supervisors to impose a tax on distributing tobacco products.

Tobacco causes approximately 540,000 American deaths each year. Price increases in tobacco have been shown to decrease consumption, especially in price-sensitive segments of the population, such as youth. Despite decreases in consumption, tobacco prevention activities must be maintained to sustain continuous decreases in tobacco consumption, a significant risk factor for many poor health outcomes and the cause of poor control for many chronic diseases.

Additional references linking cigarettes to adverse health effects include the following: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1407211/> - Recent research shows that the impact of smoking on mortality is far beyond what has previously been estimated, with more Americans losing their lives each year due to tobacco and the numerous other associated deaths.

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- <http://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/21/2/172.full> - This article cites evidence to support increases in tobacco taxes as a highly effective strategy to reduce decrease tobacco consumption.
- <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/tobacco/Documents/Media/State%20Health-e-cig%20report.pdf> - "Mainstream and secondhand e-cigarette aerosol has been found to contain at least ten chemicals that are on California's Proposition 65 list of chemicals known to cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm," as cited from California Department of Public Health, California Tobacco Control Program, State Health Officers Report on E-Cigarettes: A Community Health Threat, Sacramento, CA 2015.

As you know, the California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) is an organization of all legally appointed physician health officers in California's 61 city and county jurisdictions established in statute in 1947 to consult with, advise, and make recommendations to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), other departments, boards, commissions and officials of federal, state, and local government, the Legislature, and any other organization or association on matters affecting health.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Muntu.davis@acgov.org or 510-267-8010.

Sincerely,



Muntu Davis, MD, MPH
President, California Conference of Local Health Officers