



November 18, 2019

The Honorable Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach
411 Ocean Boulevard
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: ORD-24 (19-1132)

Dear Mayor Garcia and Council:

Thank you for making the amendments to this ordinance. We appreciate you addressing and removing the criminalization of minors and also improving the penalty structure for retailers, instead of the employee. These changes addressed very serious concerns we had with the initial language. ACS CAN welcomes the council's attention on the teenage e-cigarette crisis and supports the council's proposal to end the sale of all flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes. These are significant steps in helping to protect Long Beach youth. We encourage the council to consider making the following amendments to further strengthen this ordinance:

1. While we appreciate that you are eliminating the sale of many flavored tobacco products from a majority of retailers, you have exempted smoking lounges. The only way to keep products out of the hands of kids is to remove all products from all locations within the city, as other jurisdictions have done.
2. We also request the restrictions not be limited to one year, but rather requiring further action by the council to extend it.

We appreciate these first steps, and we look forward to working with you to continue to build and improve upon this policy in order to help reduce youth access to the flavored products that are luring a new generation to a deadly addiction.

Sincerely,

Primo J. Castro

Primo J. Castro
Director, Government Relations
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network