



February 11, 2014

Correspondence - Acuna

Honorable Mayor Bob Foster
333 W. Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council Members,

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network is committed to protecting the health and well-being of youth in the city of Long Beach. We have supported your past efforts to protect youth through enactment of a strong Tobacco Retail License to limit illegal tobacco sales to youth. ACS CAN also supported your efforts to protect Long Beach residents from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke through enactment of strong smoke-free laws. ACS CAN supports prohibiting the use of e-cigarettes in places where smoking is otherwise prohibited and applying tobacco retailer requirements to retailers that also sell tobacco products, including prohibiting the sale of e-cigarettes to minors.

There is currently limited scientific evidence about the health effects associated with the use e-cigarettes. In initial lab tests, the FDA found detectable levels of carcinogens (nitrosamines) and toxic chemicals, including ingredients used in anti-freeze in two brands of e-cigarettes and numerous cartridges. E-cigarettes are often made to resemble traditional cigarettes and can be available in flavors appealing to youth. E-cigarettes may also lead youth to try traditional cigarettes or other tobacco products, which are known to cause disease and premature death.

In the United States, tobacco use accounts for at least 30% of all cancer deaths and 80% of lung cancer deaths. Each day nearly 4,000 children try their first cigarette. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 9 out of 10 of adult tobacco users report that they started smoking by the age of 18. Preventing the uptake of tobacco use in our youth, by reducing access to tobacco products and products such as e-cigarettes that may facilitate addiction to tobacco is an important component of effective tobacco control. While e-cigarettes are, in the short term, likely less harmful than cigarettes, there are concerns that they may create new tobacco users and reverse efforts that have made smoking socially unacceptable.

Please continue to protect the health of youth in Long Beach by adopting the proposed amendments which would include prohibiting the use of e-cigarettes in places where smoking is already prohibited and applying tobacco retail license requirements to e-cigarette retailers.

Sincerely,

Maggie Acuna
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American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

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