



February 19, 2014

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The Honorable Mitch O'Farrell, Chair
Arts, Parks, Health, Aging and River Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street #450
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Chairman O'Farrell:

The American Lung Association in California supports the Los Angeles City Council's action to protect the public health of Los Angeles residents by including electronic cigarettes in its smokefree air laws.

The American Lung Association is concerned that very little is known about the health effects of electronic cigarettes and of the vapors that they release, or what the health consequences of them might be. Two initial studies have found formaldehyde, benzene and tobacco-specific nitrosamines (a cancer-causing chemical) coming from the secondhand emissions from e-cigarettes. While we have a lot more to learn about these products, it's clear that there is much to be concerned about and there's a lot more than just "water vapor" in these products. In addition, it is important to note that e-cigarettes have not been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to be safe and effective in helping smokers quit cigarettes.

And finally, it's worth highlighting that the e-cigarette industry appears to be using the same playbook as the cigarette companies did a generation ago. We are deeply concerned that these products are starting kids on a lifetime addiction to nicotine. According to one researcher, there are more than 250 e-cigarette brands for sale today, over half of which offered fruit or candy-flavors. We've seen candy-flavors including Captain Crunch, gummy bear, cotton candy, Atomic Fireball and fruit loops.

It is critical for communities to remain on the cutting edge in protecting their residents from new and emerging tobacco products, and this law does just that. We applaud Los Angeles for taking this important action to protect public health.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Amazeen
Vice President, Programs & Advocacy

Cc: Members of the Los Angeles City Council

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
TOBACCO EDUCATION AND RESEARCH OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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February 19, 2014

Honorable Council Member Mitch O'Farrel
Los Angeles City Council District 13
Chair of the Arts, Parks, Health, Aging and River Committee
200 North Spring Street #450
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Letter of Support of Regulating the use of E-Cigarettes in the City of
Los Angeles

Dear Honorable Mitch O'Farrel:

The Tobacco Education and Research Oversight Committee (TEROC) is a legislatively mandated oversight committee (California Health and Safety Code Sections 104365-104370) that monitors the use of Proposition 99 tobacco tax revenues for tobacco control, prevention education, and tobacco-related research in California. In performing this mandate, the Committee provides advice to the California Department of Public Health, the University of California, and the California Department of Education regarding the administration of the Proposition 99-funded programs. The Committee is also responsible for periodically producing a state master plan for tobacco control and tobacco-related research, and making recommendations to the State Legislature for improving tobacco control and tobacco-related research efforts in California.

TEROC supports the proposed ordinance to be heard in your Committee that would prohibit the use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) anywhere smoking is currently prohibited in the City of Los Angeles. This position is consistent with TEROC's official position on e-cigarettes, adopted at the Committee's May 22, 2013 meeting, which states:

"TEROC opposes the use of e-cigarettes in all areas where other tobacco products are banned."

In addition, this proposed ordinance is consistent with laws enacted by 44 cities and counties in California which prohibit the use of e-cigarettes in some outdoor areas, some indoor areas, or both.

Smoke-free policies protect nonsmokers from exposure to toxins and encourage smoking cessation. Introducing e-cigarettes into clean air environments reinforces the act of smoking as socially acceptable, and makes enforcement of existing laws that protect the public from secondhand smoke difficult due to the similarities with cigarettes. Early data has shown that e-cigarette emissions can contain carcinogens and toxic chemicals, which may result in additional potential harm to the public.



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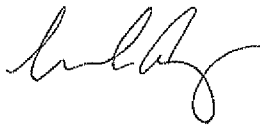
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According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the percentage of U.S. middle and high school students who have used e-cigarettes more than doubled from 2011 to 2012, from 4.7 percent to 10.0 percent. In 2012, more than 1.78 million middle and high school students nationwide had tried e-cigarettes. The CDC study also found that 76.3 percent of middle and high school students who used e-cigarettes in the last 30 days had also smoked cigarettes. With emerging tobacco products like e-cigarettes on the rise, this vulnerable population needs protection from exposure to these products.

For these reasons, TEROC supports the City of Los Angeles in its efforts to prohibit the use of e-cigarettes anywhere smoking is currently prohibited.

If you have any questions regarding this subject, please do not hesitate to contact me at MOng@Mednet.ucla.edu.

Sincerely,



Michael Ong, M.D., Ph.D.
Chairperson

Cc:

The Honorable Eric Garcetti
The Honorable Gilbert Cedillo
The Honorable Paul Krekorian
The Honorable Bob Blumenfield
The Honorable Tom LaBonge
The Honorable Paul Kortez
The Honorable Nury Martinez
The Honorable Felipe Fuentes
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