

# California State Senate

ALEX PADILLA  
SENATOR, 20TH DISTRICT



January 19, 2010

Mr. Ed P. Reyes  
Member of the City Council, 1<sup>st</sup> District  
City of Los Angeles  
200 N. Spring Street, Rm. # 410  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Date: 1-19-10  
Submitted in PLUM Committee  
Council File No: 09-2870  
Item No.: 1  
Deputy: P. Lattimore

Dear Councilmember ~~Reyes~~ <sup>Ed</sup>:

I write in support of Agenda item #1, File Number 09-2870, on today's PLUM Committee Agenda which instructs the City Attorney to draft an ordinance, in consultation with the Planning Department, to prepare and present an ordinance that prohibits the sale of tobacco near schools in the City of Los Angeles.

Each year, 36,000 California kids become new smokers and 75% of them will go on to become life-long smokers. Tobacco use remains one of the leading causes of preventable death in California with 40,000 Californians dying each year as a result of tobacco use. Costs associated with smoking-related diseases in California amount to nearly \$16 billion annually. As the largest city in the state, Los Angeles bears the largest burden of these impacts.

Surveys continue to confirm that the closer a tobacco retailer is to a school, the more likely they are to sell to children. A 2004 study by the Tobacco Related Disease Research Program found that 33% of tobacco sales to minors take place within 1,000 feet of a school. In the fall of 2009, City Attorney Trutanich announced the suspension of 24 tobacco retailers' licenses due to repeated sales of tobacco to minors. Most of these violations took place near schools. By prohibiting or restricting sales in the proximity of schools, we can significantly reduce tobacco access to children.

Dozens of cities throughout the nation have already prohibited or restricted tobacco sales in close proximity to schools because they realize the public health risks. The proposed tobacco control ordinance before you today will serve as a powerful tool in protecting the health and safety of children in Los Angeles.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to call me at (916) 651-4020.



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Padilla', written in a cursive style.

ALEX PADILLA  
State Senator, 20th District