



August 3, 2020

The Honorable Jerry Hill
 Senator, 13th District
 State Capitol, Room 5035
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for SB 793 – Protecting Youth from Flavored E-Cigarettes and Tobacco Products

Dear Senator Hill:

On behalf of the organizations signed on to this letter we are writing to express our support for SB 793, which will help protect youth from the harms of flavored tobacco products.

We are in the midst of an e-cigarette epidemic of unparalleled proportions. Tobacco companies have pushed candy-flavored products into the youth market, quietly hooking kids into a dangerous addiction to nicotine.

Current events have highlighted these dangers. There is growing evidence that smokers are at a greater risk of hospitalization and severe illness due to COVID-19, placing smokers in the high-risk category. Smoking increases the risk for respiratory infections, weakens the immune system and is a major cause of a number of chronic health conditions, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, heart disease and diabetes. In addition, there is growing evidence that vaping can also harm lung health. These factors put smokers, and in all likelihood vapers as well, at greater risk when confronted with the coronavirus.

Long before this novel coronavirus arrived, California youth were being sentenced to a lifetime of addiction as the skyrocketing youth use of e-cigarettes swept the nation. In November 2018, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported a dramatic increase in youth nicotine use, leading the Surgeon General and the FDA to declare youth e-cigarette use an epidemic in the United States. The disturbing rates of teen e-cigarette use continued to rise in 2019, with more than 1 in 4 high school students and more than 1 in 10 middle school students using e-cigarettes. Altogether, more than 5.3 million youth were current e-cigarette users in 2019, with the overwhelming majority of youth citing use of popular fruit and menthol or mint flavors.

81 percent of young people who have ever used tobacco started with a flavored product. These products often mimic popular candies, drinks, or snacks in both packaging and flavor, making them particularly appealing to youth. A variety of flavored tobacco products like cotton candy, bubble gum, and mango are widely available on retail shelves. 72 percent of youth tobacco users have used a flavored tobacco product in the past month and at least two-thirds of youth tobacco users report using tobacco products “because they come in flavors I like.”

With the surges in youth nicotine usage and associated public health risks, California needs to take swift action. While the FDA recently announced a partial ban on certain flavored electronic cigarette products, the policy does not go far enough to protect the health and safety of California children by making dangerous exemptions. It is time for California to lead the nation by passing SB 793 to end the sale of all flavored tobacco products.

For these reasons, we are proud to support SB 793.

Sincerely,

African American Tobacco Control
Leadership Council

African Communities Public Health Coalition

Alameda County Tobacco Education
Coalition

American Academy of Pediatrics, California
Chapter

American Cancer Society Cancer Action
Network

American Heart Association

American Lung Association	CALPIRG
Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights	Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids
Anti-Vaping Alliance	Change for Justice
Association of California Healthcare Districts	City of Berkeley
Association of California School Administrators	City of Oakland
Association of Northern California Oncologists	City of Palo Alto
Bay Area Community Resources	City of San Jose
Black Arts Los Angeles, Inc	City of San Leandro
Black Caucus of Health Workers	City of San Pablo
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners	Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Imperial County
BREATHE California of Los Angeles County	Coalition of Lavender-Americans on Smoking and Health
BREATHE California, Sacramento Region	Coastal Communities Drug Free Coalition
Cal Poly Center for Health Research	Common Sense Kids Action
California Academy of Family Physicians	Community Action Service Advocacy
California Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs	Community Alliance for Fontana Students
California Black Health Network	Community Coalition
California Chapter American College Of Cardiology	Community Health for Asian Americans
California Children's Hospital Association	County Health Executives Association of California
California Dental Association	County of Contra Costa
California Optometric Association	County of Santa Clara
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network	CVS Health
California School Nurses Organization	Cynthia Perry Ray Foundation
California School-Based Health Alliance	Emergency Nurses Association, California State Council
California Society of Addictive Medicine	Emphysema Foundation of America
California State Parent Teacher Association	

Equality California
First 5 Association of California
Flavors Addict Kids – Livermore
G.R.E.E.N. Foundation
Greentech Education and Employment
Health Access
Health Officers Association of California
Indio WIN Center
International Youth Tobacco Control
Kaiser Permanente
L.A. Families Fighting Flavored Tobacco
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
Lifelong Medical Tobacco Treatment
Training Program
Los Angeles Unified School District
Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford
Mental Health Systems
OUT Against Big Tobacco
Parents Against Vaping E-Cigarettes
Parents Opposing Addictive Drug
Advertising
Providence St. Joseph Health
Public Health Advocates
Public Health Institute
Riverside County Black Chamber of
Commerce

San Bernardino County District Advocates
for Better Schools
San Bernardino County Superintendent of
Schools
San Diego Unified School District
San Francisco Bay Area Pediatric Nurse
Practitioner Association
San Francisco Tobacco Free Coalition
San Luis Obispo County Tobacco Control
Coalition
San Marcos Prevention Coalition
San Mateo County Tobacco Education
Coalition
Santa Clara County Office of Education
Santa Cruz County Tobacco Education
Coalition
Save a Girl, Save a World
Sierra Club California
State Superintendent of Public Instruction,
Tony Thurmond
The Aegle Project
Thirdhand Smoke Resource Center
Tobacco and Vape Free OC Coalition
Tobacco-Free Coalition of Santa Clara
County
Vista Community Clinic
Wellness & Prevention Center
Youth Leadership Institute