



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

February 3, 2020

The Honorable Jerry Hill
California State Senate
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 793: Flavored tobacco products - As Introduced January 6, 2020 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Hill:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support SB 793, which would prohibit the sale of flavored tobacco products, including flavored electronic cigarettes, in the state of California.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a significant rise in electronic cigarette use and flavored tobacco products has occurred within the last decade, largely driven by an increase in usage among youth. A recent study conducted by the CDC and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) found that over 5.3 million young Americans use electronic cigarette products regularly, representing an increase of 1.7 million youth compared to 2018. This figure increased 1.5 million, or 78 percent among high school students and 48 percent among middle school students, between 2017 and 2018. This unprecedented surge in electronic cigarette use nationwide and in California over the past several years has reversed trends in decreasing tobacco use among youth.

A wealth of research has shown that tobacco users who initiate use at a younger age are more likely to develop a severe nicotine addiction. Furthermore, individuals who use tobacco products significantly increase their risk of developing severe health conditions, including cancer, heart disease, and emphysema.

63 percent of California adults surveyed by the California Department of Public Health in 2018 agree that the sale of flavored tobacco products should not be allowed. Prohibiting the sale of all flavored tobacco products is a critical step in preventing another generation of young people from living with a lifetime of addiction.

For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino supports SB 793. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curt Hagman".

Curt Hagman
Fourth District Supervisor
Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

cc: San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ROBERT A. LOVINGOOD
First District

JANICE RUTHERFORD
Second District

DAWN ROWE
Third District

CURT HAGMAN
Chairman, Fourth District

JOSIE GONZALES
Vice Chair, Fifth District

Gary McBride
Chief Executive Officer