



March 17, 2016

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor of California
State Capitol
Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) and its 5,000 member coalitions nationwide, I am writing to urge you to sign the following bills that have all recently passed the California legislature: SBX2-5, ABX2-7, SBX2-7, ABX2-9, ABX2-10 and ABX2-11. Cumulatively, these bills represent the most substantial public health effort in California in recent memory to protect children's health and save thousands of lives from the harms of tobacco use.

The bills that the Assembly and Senate have passed in the past week are common-sense bills that, together, will save thousands of Californians' lives and protect children from the scourge of tobacco use.

SBX2-5 would extend regulation of e-cigarettes, which are increasingly used by youth, to California's traditional smoke-free workplace laws. ABX2-7 cuts loopholes in California's smoke-free laws to protect more areas from secondhand smoke, which can often be as deadly as smoking tobacco products oneself. SBX2-7 would raise the age to be able to legally purchase tobacco products from 18 to 21, thereby severely reducing the number of young people who become addicted to smoking. ABX2-9 would require all Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to be smoke-free, further protecting students from tobacco. ABX2-10 would allow any California county to impose a tax on cigarettes and tobacco products, which have proven effective at reducing smoking rates. ABX2-11 would increase tobacco licensing fees to make sure they can cover the costs of operating that program.

We know from decades of scientific research and experience that tobacco use leads the highest numbers of Americans to die from something that is preventable. We also know that the younger a person is who starts smoking, the more likely they are to develop a lifelong, deadly and damaging habit. As a national organization dedicated to preventing youth drug use before it starts, CADCA is strongly supportive of efforts to keep harmful and addictive substances away from young people, so that they are able to live healthy, productive lives.

As you know, California is known for its progressive views on tobacco use. When coalitions were able to successfully ban smoking in bars and restaurants nearly 20 years ago, the rest of the country followed suit, and society is, literally, breathing better air and no business closed its doors.

Building Drug-Free Communities

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Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America

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Most significantly, raising the age to legally purchase tobacco from 18 to 21 will further delay initiation rates among youth, which we know will drastically cut the number of people who will become addicted. Like Hawai'i and numerous other jurisdictions, California has the chance to, with this law, be a leader to other States in showing how a strong, effective, public health approach to youth substance prevention leads to healthier, more prosperous communities.

For these reasons, I urge you to sign these bills into law.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arthur T. Dean". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Arthur T. Dean
Major General, U.S. Army, Retired
Chairman and CEO

cc: Senators Ed Hernandez and Mark Leno

cc: Assemblymembers Mark Stone, Tony Thurmond, Adrin Nazarian and Richard Bloom