

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
**TOBACCO EDUCATION AND RESEARCH OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

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California Department of Public Health

August 15, 2016

Dear Partners of Tobacco Control:

On behalf of the legislatively mandated Tobacco Education and Research Oversight Committee (TEROC), I would like to thank you for your ongoing efforts toward increasing tobacco prevention, control, education, and research in California. Your work has enabled California to achieve great success through the passage of the following landmark tobacco control legislation:

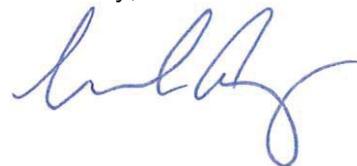
- Senate Bill 5 X2 (Leno), which included electronic smoking devices in the definition of "tobacco product," requires child resistant packaging for cartridges and solutions used to refill electronic cigarettes, and requires retailers of all tobacco products to obtain a state tobacco retail license from the Board of Equalization;
- Senate Bill 7 X2 (Hernandez), which increased the age of sale for tobacco products to 21;
- Assembly Bill 7 X2 (Stone), which closed loopholes in the state smoke-free workplace law, including hotel lobbies and break rooms, small businesses, and warehouses;
- Assembly Bill 9 X2 (Thurmond), which requires all public schools, including charter schools, to prohibit the use of all tobacco products; and
- Assembly Bill 11 X2 (Nazarian), which established an annual Board of Equalization tobacco licensing program, increased the annual tobacco retailer licensing fee to \$265, and increased the annual wholesaler and distributor licensing fees to \$1,200.

These landmark laws significantly shift California's landscape toward preventing vulnerable populations, particularly young people, from getting addicted to tobacco products. It also sent a clear message that that we are committed to protecting Californians from the harms of all tobacco products. Notably, because of your actions, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now recognizes California as a state with comprehensive smoke-free laws.

We appreciate you, and your staff, for your ongoing commitment and dedication to improving tobacco control. We will always need committed individuals who share TEROc's mission of eliminating tobacco-related illness, death, and economic burden through achieving a tobacco-free California. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (310) 794-0154 or via e-mail at

[MOng@Mednet.ucla.edu](mailto:MOng@Mednet.ucla.edu).

Sincerely,



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

