

HEALTH COMMISSION
City and County of San Francisco
Resolution No. 13-06

Resolution Supporting Proposition 86, the Tobacco Tax Act of 2006

WHEREAS, the Tobacco Tax Act of 2006 is a state initiative that if passed by voters in November 2006 would raise the state's tobacco tax by an additional \$2.60/pack; and

WHEREAS, according to the California Department of Health Services, the tax increase alone would prevent 700,000 children currently under 17 years of age from becoming smokers in adulthood; high school and middle school student smoking prevalence would decline by 42.8%; more than half a million smokers in California would quit smoking; and

WHEREAS, the Tobacco Tax Act would produce more than \$2 billion in annual revenue to fund children's health insurance, emergency room care, nursing education, disease prevention, medical research and programs that will reduce smoking, especially among children; and

WHEREAS, 4.5 million Californians smoke and nearly 75,000 a year try their first cigarette, and these smokers put a significant burden on our economy and our hospitals and healthcare systems in direct and indirect medical costs, worker absenteeism and lost productivity; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health Services states that tobacco use remains the number one preventable cause of death in California, killing more than 40,000 Californians each year; and

WHEREAS, the Tobacco Tax Act would significantly reduce the burden on state and local healthcare agencies of treating the uninsured by providing basic health insurance coverage including primary care and hospitalization to California's 800,000 uninsured children – nearly 10% -- by expanding eligibility and simplifying enrollment in the state's Medi-Cal and Healthy Families public health insurance programs for children; and

WHEREAS, the Tobacco Tax Act would provide funding for outreach to enroll currently eligible children into the Medi-Cal and the Healthy Families programs, generating additional revenues to local communities including \$1,112 annually in state and federal funding for each child enrolled or a total of \$390 million in additional annual revenue if all currently eligible children are enrolled; and

WHEREAS, the Tobacco Tax Act is expected to generate significant additional savings for the 17 counties operating their own children's health coverage initiatives because these children would now be eligible for state programs funded by tobacco tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, the Tobacco Tax Act is expected to reduce state and local government healthcare costs over time through reduced tobacco use and tobacco related disease as well as through expanded state health programs; and

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Resolution No. 13-06 (continued)

WHEREAS, the Tobacco Tax Act will provide needed funds for emergency rooms and critical care services (seventy California hospital emergency rooms have closed their doors in the past ten years; now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Health Commission supports Proposition 86, the Tobacco Tax Act of 2006.

I hereby certify that the Health Commission at its meeting of October 3, 2006, adopted the foregoing resolution.

Michele M. Seaton
Secretary to the Health Commission