

HEALTH COMMISSION
City and County of San Francisco
Resolution No. 14-08

**ENDORISING THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO PROHIBIT PHARMACIES FROM
SELLING TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

WHEREAS, tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, responsible fore approximately 440,000 deaths each year; and,

WHEREAS, tobacco is also the leading cause of preventable death in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, pharmacies market themselves as places where people go to become healthier; and,

WHEREAS, selling tobacco by pharmacies may influence social acceptability of smoking by implicitly sending a message that tobacco is not a dangerous substance; and,

WHEREAS, decreasing the social acceptability of smoking during the past two decades through smoking bans, restrictions on tobacco advertising and promotion and tobacco availability has resulted in lower smoking rates; and,

WHEREAS, pharmacies serve a vulnerable population of persons with diseases worsened by smoking; and,

WHEREAS, smokers wanting to quit smoking go to pharmacies to obtain medications to assist them in the cessation process; and,

WHEREAS, banning the sale of tobacco in pharmacies is supported by the American Pharmaceutical Association, California Pharmacists Association, California Medical Association, San Francisco Tobacco Free Coalition, San Francisco Medical Society, American Lung Association of California, American Heart Association Greater Bay Area Division, BREATHE California and the American Cancer Society San Francisco Unit; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor has proposed prohibiting pharmacies, with the exception of grocery store and big box pharmacies, from selling tobacco products such that tobacco permits, which are required of all tobacco retailers, issued to pharmacies would expire on September 30, 2008 and any new applications to pharmacies prohibited from selling tobacco would be denied; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the San Francisco Health Commission endorses the proposed ordinance, File Number 080594 that would ban tobacco sales in pharmacies; and be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Health Commission forwards this resolution to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its meeting of July 15, 2008 adopted the foregoing resolution.

Michele M. Seaton
Executive Secretary to the Health Commission