

**HEALTH COMMISSION  
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
Resolution No. 16-2**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING SUPPORT FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO TO AMEND THE HEALTH CODE TO PROHIBIT RETAILERS FROM SELLING TOBACCO PRODUCTS, INCLUDING SMOKELESS TOBACCO AND ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES, TO PERSONS AGED 18, 19, OR 20**

WHEREAS, Tobacco is the number one preventable cause of death; and

WHEREAS, Tobacco claims nearly half a million lives a year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Cigarette smoking increases the risk of heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, acute respiratory illness, stroke; and cancers of the lung, larynx, oral cavity, pharynx, pancreas, breast and cervix; and

WHEREAS, Electronic cigarettes also present significant health risk since they can contain nicotine, a highly addictive neurotoxin. Exposure to nicotine during adolescence can harm the brain development and predispose youth to future tobacco use; and

WHEREAS, The prevalence of cigarette smoking among adults in San Francisco has decreased over the past 17 years, however, it has remained relatively stable at 12-14% since 2008; and

WHEREAS, From 2007 to 2012, smoking before and during pregnancy has decreased among women in San Francisco. However, the prevalence of smoking three months prior to becoming pregnant is higher among Black/African American women (12.3%); and

WHEREAS, Youth are disproportionately affected by tobacco use, with almost 3% of San Francisco middle school and 9.1% of high school students reporting that they smoke; and

WHEREAS, Rates continue to increase with age peaking at 16% among young adults 18-24 years old; and

WHEREAS, A 2005 study based from the California Tobacco Survey found that 82% of adolescents who had ever smoked obtained their cigarettes from others, mostly friends, and a substantial percentage (40.9%) of the people giving cigarettes were 18 years or older, with most of them (31.3%) being ages 18, 19, or 20; and

WHEREAS, In 2015, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) concluded that raising the minimum legal age to 21 for tobacco products nationwide would reduce tobacco initiation, particularly among adolescents aged 15-17, and over time would lead to a 12% decrease in the overall smoking rate; and

WHEREAS, The IOM also predicted that raising the minimum legal age would result in 223,000 fewer premature deaths, 50,000 fewer death from lung cancer, and 4.2 million fewer years lost for people born in the US between 2000 and 2019, and would result in near-immediate reductions in preterm births, low birth weight babies, and sudden infant death syndrome; and

WHEREAS, New York City, the State of Hawaii, Kansas City- Missouri, Santa Clara County and a total of 188 jurisdictions across the nation have adopted a tobacco purchase age of 21 with more considering the proposal each week;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Health Commission approves and supports the efforts of the City and County of San Francisco to amend the Health Code to prohibit tobacco retailers from selling tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco and electronic cigarettes, to persons aged 18, 19, or 20.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its meeting on February 2, 2016 adopted the foregoing resolution.

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Mark Morewitz  
Executive Secretary to the Health Commission