



1400 EYE STREET, N.W. • SUITE 1200 • WASHINGTON, DC 20005
PHONE (202) 296-5469 • FAX (202) 296-5427

Tobacco-free pharmacies Endorsement by Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids

Policy

The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids supports legislation eliminating tobacco sales in any establishment that operates a pharmacy. By so doing, we join a broad coalition of pharmacy, community, public health, and medical organizations. We must end the inconsistency of selling tobacco in establishments where pharmacists play a crucial role in the public's health by dispensing physician-prescribed medication and providing one-on-one health counseling.

To ensure that pharmacies that no longer sell tobacco products are not simply replaced by other retail outlets selling tobacco, localities should also freeze the total number of outlets with tobacco licenses at the existing number of such outlets, less the number of establishments that will stop selling tobacco products once the tobacco-free pharmacy legislation is implemented.

Rationale

The Centers for Disease Control has determined that tobacco use is the most important preventable cause of disease, disability, and death in the United States.¹ Each year there are more than 400,000 deaths in the United States attributable to cigarette smoking.²

Tobacco use is highly addictive,³ making it difficult even for motivated persons to quit. Preventing children and adults from trying tobacco in the first place is therefore crucial, with the use of both anti-tobacco messaging campaigns as well as marketing restrictions that identify tobacco use as harmful behavior.

Pharmacists are licensed practitioners regulated by departments of health. They are valuable sources of information for the public about medications,⁴ general health,⁵ and tobacco cessation.⁶ Pharmacies are so closely tied to the health care system that many of them now receive prescriptions directly from physicians' offices via e-prescribing, as part of a federal plan to improve patient safety and modernize health information technology.⁷ Pharmacists cannot be expected to provide effective and credible tobacco cessation counseling in establishments selling the very product they are counseling against! The American Pharmacists' Association recently reiterated its strong stand against tobacco sales in pharmacies.⁸

Precedent

Legislation providing for tobacco-free pharmacies will be part of the broad network of regulations and laws meant to reverse the harms caused by tobacco. For example, Congress in 2009 increased the federal cigarette tax.⁹ At the state level, twenty-seven states and the District of Columbia have passed laws prohibiting smoking in almost all public places and workplaces, in order to reduce exposure to secondhand smoke.¹⁰ The City of San Francisco in 2008¹¹ and the City of Boston in 2009¹² have both enacted legislation prohibiting tobacco sales in pharmacies. San Francisco's ban has withstood legal challenge by a tobacco corporation in a ruling by the Ninth Circuit US Court of Appeals.¹³

People in all cities and states deserve similar protection, with an official recognition that pharmacies are health care facilities where cigarettes and other tobacco products should not be sold.

References:

WWW.TOBACCOFREEKIDS.ORGWWW.TOBACCOFREEKIDS.ORG

¹ Centers for Disease Control website:

http://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/resources/publications/aag/pdf/2010/tobacco_2010.pdf accessed April 26, 2010

² *MMWR* 2008; 57(45):1226-1228

³ Pollin W. *Why people smoke cigarettes*. Statement developed from testimony delivered before the US Congress by William Pollin, MS, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (Comprehensive Smoking Prevention Education Act: hearings before the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, US Senate, March 16, 1982, p52). Rockville, Maryland: Department of Health and Human Services. Rockville, Maryland: Department of Health and Human Services. Public Health Service.

⁴ Schnipper JL, Kirwin JL, Cotugno MC, et al. Role of Pharmacist Counseling in Preventing Adverse Drug Events After Hospitalization. *Arch Intern Med*. 2006;166:565-571.

⁵ Babb VJ and Babb J. Pharmacist Involvement in Healthy People 2010. *Journal of the American Pharmaceutical Association* 2003; 43; 56-60.

⁶ Blenkinsopp A, Anderson C, Armstrong M. Systematic review of effectiveness of community-pharmacy based interventions to reduce risk behaviours and risk factors for coronary heart disease. *J Public Health Medicine* 2003; 25; 144-153.

⁷ Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services website:

<http://www.cms.gov/EPrescribing/> accessed May 24, 2010

⁸ American Pharmacists Association website, accessed June 7, 2010

http://www.pharmacist.com/AM/Template.cfm?Section=News_Releases2&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=23367

⁹ American Lung Association. *State of Tobacco Control* 2009. <http://www.stateoftobaccocontrol.org/2009/state-of-tobacco-control.html> accessed April 26, 2010

¹⁰ American Lung Association. SLATI website, information accurate as of March 15, 2010.

<http://slati.lungusa.org/reports/SecondhandSmokeLawsFactSheet03-10.pdf> accessed April 26, 2010

¹¹ San Francisco, California Health Code. Article 19J: Prohibiting pharmacies from selling tobacco products.

<http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=14136&stateId=5&stateName=California> accessed May 24, 2010

¹² Boston Public Health Commission website:

<http://www.bphc.org/programs/cib/healthyhomescommunitysupports/tobaccocontrol/tobaccoregs/Pages/Home.aspx> accessed May 24, 2010

¹³ Gullo K. Philip Morris Drops Suit Over San Francisco Sales Ban (Update2). Bloomberg.com October 15, 2009.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=aR36o3xNbNG0> accessed June 7, 2010