



Statements on New Legislation to End the Sale of Flavored Tobacco in Redondo Beach

For Immediate Release: September 4, 2019

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REDONDO BEACH, Calif. — The Redondo Beach City Council voted Tuesday night to introduce new local legislation that would end the sale of flavored tobacco, including menthol, products at most tobacco retailers in the city.

President of the Southern California American Academy of Pediatrics and local pediatrician/researcher/advocate Alice Kuo, MD, FAAP issued the following statement on behalf of L.A. Families Fighting Flavored Tobacco after the vote:

“Redondo Beach is poised to be a regional leader in protecting public health by ending the sale of flavored tobacco products, including menthol. Candy flavors like mint, gummy bear and chocolate prevent youth from realizing how dangerous these products really are and put young people at risk for nicotine addiction. In fact, four out of five kids who have used tobacco started with a flavored product. Both the CDC and FDA have issued warnings following over 250 reports of e-cigarette related lung illnesses across the country,” said Dr. Kuo.

“In the midst of a growing e-cigarette epidemic, cities like Redondo Beach are taking action to protect the next generation from Big Tobacco. We urge the City Council to pass this ordinance on September 24 and end the sale of all flavored tobacco including menthol in Redondo Beach for good.”

Annie Tegen of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids said:

“The majority of other California cities passing similar policies have applied them to all tobacco retailers, Redondo Beach is proposing to carve out an exemption for “adult-only” retailers. According to a recent survey in LA County, 61% of youth who use these products, say they obtain them from these shops. The Redondo Beach ordinance is a strong step forward, but currently exempts certain retailers. If these products are for sale anywhere in Redondo Beach, kids will get them. The best way to completely protect youth is to end the sale of these products in Redondo Beach without exemptions.”