**Sample School Board Resolution in Support of the California Healthcare, Research and Prevention Tobacco Tax Act of 2016**

**WHEREAS,** smoking is the leading preventable cause of death in California; and

**WHEREAS,** 90 percent of smokers start as teens[[1]](#footnote-1); and

**WHEREAS,** over 17,000 children in California become addicted to smoking every year[[2]](#footnote-2); and

**WHEREAS,** half of all teens who start smoking will die from smoking related illness[[3]](#footnote-3); and

**WHEREAS,** for every 10 percent increase in the cost of a pack of cigarettes, teen smoking drops by up to 6.5 percent[[4]](#footnote-4); and

**WHEREAS,** teen e-cigarette (vaping) use tripled between 2013 and 2014[[5]](#footnote-5); and

**WHEREAS,** the California Healthcare, Research and Prevention Tobacco Tax Act of 2016 will prevent teens from becoming addicted to tobacco; and

**WHEREAS,** every year, smoking costs California taxpayers billions of dollars, including $3.5 billion spent annually on Medi-Cal to treat smoking-related diseases[[6]](#footnote-6); and

**WHEREAS,** the California Healthcare, Research and Prevention Tobacco Tax Act of 2016 will reduce smoking rates and reduce long-term healthcare costs; and

**WHEREAS,** the California Healthcare, Research and Prevention Tobacco Tax Act of 2016 will increase the tax on a pack of cigarettes sold in California from 87 cents per pack to $2.87, and place equivalent taxes on other tobacco products containing nicotine, like e-cigarettes (vaping); and

**WHEREAS,** the California Healthcare, Research and Prevention Tobacco Tax Act of 2016 will raise approximately $2.5 billion annually, 85 percent of which will fund healthcare programs; and

**WHEREAS,** these programs include Medi-Cal which is the primary medical care for the majority of California’s school children, smoking prevention programs at our schools through grants administered by the California Department of Education, research on tobacco-related diseases including cancer, heart and lung disease through the University of California, increasing medical residency programs for our students graduating from California medical schools; and

**WHEREAS,** the California Healthcare, Research and Prevention Tobacco Tax Act of 2016 is supported by the California School Boards Association; and

**WHEREAS,** the California Healthcare, Research and Prevention Tobacco Tax Act of 2016 is also supported by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association in California, the California Medical Association, the California Dental Association, the California Hospital Association, the Service Employees International Union; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** that the Governing Board of the (insert name of school district/county board of education) supports the California Healthcare, Research and Prevention Tobacco Tax Act of 2016.

Adopted by the Governing Board of the (insert name of school district/county board of education) on (insert month), (date), 2016.

Signature (Governing Board Secretary) Date

Please forward a copy of the signed resolution to the California School Boards Association by emailing it to govrel@csba.org

1. SAMHSA, calculated based on data in 2012 *National Survey on Drug Use and Health*. <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0127.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 2 Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, “Toll of Tobacco in California.” <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/facts_issues/toll_us/california> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, “Toll of Tobacco in California.” <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/facts_issues/toll_us/california> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Chaloupka, FJ, “Macro-Social Influences: The Effects of Prices and Tobacco Control Policies on the Demand for Tobacco Products,” Nicotine and Tobacco Research 1(Suppl 1): S105-9, 1999; [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “E-cigarette use triples among middle and high school students in just one year.” April 15, 2015. http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2015/p0416-e-cigarette-use.html [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, “Toll of Tobacco in California.” <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/facts_issues/toll_us/california> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)