



*City of
Encinitas*

Office of
The Mayor

June 24, 2015

The Honorable Ed Hernandez, O.D.
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2080
Sacramento, CA 95814

Kristin Gaspar
Mayor

RE: SB 151 (Hernandez) Tobacco products: minimum legal age
NOTICE OF SUPPORT

Dear Senator Hernandez:

Catherine S. Blakespear
Deputy Mayor

The City of Encinitas supports Senate Bill 151 (Hernandez) that would change the minimum legal purchase age for all tobacco products in California from 18 to 21. This common sense measure could have a profound influence on the next generation of tobacco users.

Tony Kranz
Council Member

It is estimated that 90 percent of tobacco users start before the age of 21, and that 75 percent of teen smokers continue into their adult years. Evidence suggests that the adolescent brain is more susceptible to the addictive qualities of nicotine. Research by the Surgeon General indicates that adolescents can become dependent on nicotine very quickly and at lower levels of consumption than adults.

Mark Muir
Council Member

If passed into law, this would make it more difficult for teens to access tobacco products in California. Apart from the immediate benefit to youths, in the long run this bill would also help reduce the heavy financial burden tobacco has on healthcare with fewer aging smokers.

For these reasons, the City of Encinitas supports SB 151 (Hernandez) Tobacco products: minimum legal age.

Sincerely,

Lisa Shaffer
Council Member

Kristin Gaspar
Mayor

Larry Watt
Interim City Manager

cc: Assembly Member Rocky Chavez
Senator Patricia Bates
City Council
JGC Governmental Relations
Jason Rhine, League of California Cities