



January 22, 2016

Community College League of California,

On January 6, 2016, Assemblymember Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento) introduced AB 1594, a bill supporting comprehensive smoke-free air policies on the California State University (CSU) and California Community College (CCC) campuses. The Community College League of California (CCLC) has the opportunity to advance the health and wellbeing of all CCC students and staff by supporting this initiative.

Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable and premature death in the United States. The US Surgeon General has concluded there is no safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke. Tobacco smoke is a known deadly carcinogen.

In 2011, the American College Health Association adopted a position statement supporting 100% smoke/tobacco-free college and university campuses. In 2013, the Health Services Association of California Community Colleges (HSACCC) adopted a white paper on tobacco prevention and control in the California Community Colleges. The paper supported the establishment of multi-faceted campus-based efforts to create 100% smoke/tobacco-free California community colleges.

HSACCC supports the national Healthy People 2020 Tobacco Use objectives in **3** key areas:

1. Tobacco Use Prevalence: Implementing policies to reduce tobacco use and initiation among youth and adults.
2. Health System Changes: Adopting policies and strategies to increase access, affordability, and use of smoking cessation services and treatments.
3. Social and Environmental Changes: Establishing policies to reduce exposure to secondhand smoke, increase the cost of tobacco, restrict tobacco advertising, and reduce illegal sales to minors.

HSACCC hopes that the CCLC will take prevention-oriented action on a CCC system-wide level by:

- Helping to strengthen smoke/tobacco-free laws.
- Valuing community health through increased education on the dangers of tobacco use, in its many forms, and increased protection of the health of non-smokers.
- Changing social norms to reduce social acceptability of tobacco use in its many forms.
- Helping to build capacity for future policy changes within the California public higher education system through support of research-based evidence for universal smoke/tobacco-free policies.

It is the opinion of HSACCC that AB 1594, if amended to better define e-cigarettes and include tobacco-free language, is in alignment with current national public health goals and that research supports comprehensive smoke/tobacco-free policies to support the health of our CCC students and employees. We urge the CCLC to support AB 1594.

On behalf of the HSACCC Executive Board, thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

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