

Subject: Tobacco Preemption Veto Request

As a coalition of public health organizations, municipalities, and concerned Ohioans, we respectfully urge you to line-item veto the language included by the General Assembly in the state budget bill, HB 33, which would prohibit communities from protecting themselves against tobacco targeting.

Your veto of similar legislation passed by the General Assembly in December may have displeased the tobacco industry, but it was appreciated by the vast majority of your constituents. Now the legislature has returned with new language that would again wipe out the efforts of local communities to end the sale of flavored tobacco while also disarming them in their efforts to enforce state laws already on the books. Our school districts, parks and local governments have been innovative in implementing solutions to help protect our children and communities from nicotine addiction. The legislature's provisions in the state budget bill will remove these and future protections.

Please use your authority to protect Ohioans with a line-item veto of this harmful legislation. You have been a champion for children throughout your career in public service, especially during your tenure as governor. We know that this is a core guiding principle. The tobacco industry will not stop coming after kids because they know the profits they can reap by luring them into a lifetime addiction. We thank you for standing up for our children, and we humbly ask you to do so again.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio

African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Heart Association

American Lung Association

Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids

Interact for Health

Ohio State Medical Association

Ohio State University College of Public Health

Preventing Tobacco Addiction Foundation

PrimaryOne Health

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