

Alameda County Pharmacist Association  
2929 Telegraph Ave, Berkeley CA 94705

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Alameda County Pharmacists Association supports the campaign to remove tobacco from Alameda County Pharmacies. We believe that the sale of deadly addicted tobacco products in establishments dedicated to the public's health and well-being is wrong. Pharmacies cater to the most vulnerable members of the community and sell many products targeted to youth. The sale of tobacco in Pharmacies advertises tobacco products to both impressionable youth and adults.

Tobacco is also the only consumable product that will kill at least half of its users and cigarette smoking is the leading cause preventable disease and death in the United States causing approximately 438,000 deaths a year. Selling tobacco products in pharmacies violates the pharmacist's code of conduct which requires a commitment to the welfare of patients and to avoid actions that compromise patient's best interests.

This is a serious problem in Alameda County. Over the past year some Pharmacies in Alameda County failed decoy operations by illegally selling tobacco to youth.

Data from Northern California Pharmacists show that over 98% of licensed pharmacist support such a measure. The vast majority (78%) of independent Pharmacies do not sell tobacco. However 94% of chain store pharmacies still sell cigarettes.

The public is also largely in favor of this idea. 72.3% of California consumers do not think pharmacies should sell tobacco products. More over 97% of consumers would choose to shop at pharmacies with either the same frequency or more often if they were tobacco-free.

Now is the time for all pharmacies to be tobacco free. San Francisco, Richmond and Unincorporated Santa Clara have all adopted a smoke free Pharmacy ordinance. Thank you for working to protect those who live in our county from tobacco sales in pharmacies.

Sincerely yours, Dr. Pam Gumbs, Doctorate-In-Pharmacy  
Geriatric Consultant, UCSF Geriatric Institution