

Levesque, Jennifer

From: Lynda Barbour <lynda.barbour@cancer.org>
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 7:33 AM
To: cityclerk
Cc: Chelsea Aivazian; Cha See
Subject: Comments in Opposition to item # 1. 2. (21-768) Merced City Council

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network opposes the amendment before you.

- 1) Increasing density of tobacco retailers by allowing them to be located more closely to youth serving areas is bad for the community health. Studies demonstrate that there is a relationship between tobacco retail density and smoking prevalence and the proliferation of these stores is much higher in black and brown, as well as lower income communities. Our youth and these communities are already targets of the tobacco industry and a change to the policy allows further encroachment by the tobacco industry into the lives of our residents.
- 2) It is unnecessary. The current ordinance allows for exemptions to be granted on a case by case basis, and this already allows council to assure that the community health is protected when an exemption is granted

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