

Untitled

Commission Meeting

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Comments:

Dear Chairman Heil and members of the Sandoval County Commission,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on Resolution No. 12-10-20.9. The American Heart Association, along with its coalition partners (American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Lung Association, New Mexico Chronic Disease Prevention Council, New Mexico Allied Council of Tobacco, and other others) strongly support repealing the existing tobacco preemption and giving more local control over the sale of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes. One in five high school students are using e-cigarettes and more than 80% of those young people using flavored e-cigarettes . While we have made some progress, millions of kids are still using these products and flavors continue to attract new youth users. A 2019 New Mexico Department of Health survey found that 34 percent of New Mexico high school students used e-cigarettes at least once in the last 30 days. The same survey conducted in 2017, found that rate to be at 24 percent. It is evident from this survey that e-cigarette use among New Mexico youth continues to grow at an alarming rate, creating the next generation of youth who are addicted to nicotine and who could potentially suffer from heart disease, stroke, hypertension, lung cancer, and among other health issues. If tobacco preemption is repealed, communities such as Sandoval County could adopt local regulations that could help with brining down youth tobacco/e-cigarette rates within its communities and overall rates in our state. Our sincere thanks to Chairman Heil for his leadership on this issue and sponsoring this resolution. We respectfully urge you to approve this resolution and thank you for your service.

Mahesh Sita
Government Relations Director
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