



3/17/2026

City of Sacramento
Law & Legislation Committee
915 I St
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Healthy Food Exemption

Dear Sacramento Mayor and City Councilmembers:

My name is Chase Kornacki, and I am an Advocacy and Public Policy Intern with the American Lung Association and a recent Master of Public Health graduate from the University of California San Diego. My internship experience and four years in tobacco prevention research have strengthened my understanding of tobacco-related harms and the need for comprehensive tobacco control policies.

I am writing to express our support updating the Tobacco Retail License (TRL) ordinance to remove the “healthy food” exemption. Strengthening the city's TRL policy is an important step toward protecting youth and other vulnerable populations from tobacco addiction and the lifelong health consequences associated with tobacco use.

Each year in California, nearly 40,000 adults die from smoking-related causes, and over 9,200 kids become new daily smokers. An effective way to limit youth access to tobacco and decrease these numbers is through adopting a comprehensive TRL ordinance. According to the [State of Tobacco Control – California Local Grades report](#), 231 jurisdictions in California have adopted TRL policies, demonstrating the important role local governments play in reducing youth access to tobacco products.

To ensure the TRL ordinance works as intended, which was to decrease youth access to tobacco products, we urge Sacramento to take the following actions and include these elements in the TRL policy:

1. Remove the Healthy Food Exemption
2. Ensure TRLs are non-transferable to assist in reducing tobacco retailer density
3. Support Code Enforcements need for a uniformed protocol

Thank you for your time and consideration. We trust that the Mayor and City Council will adopt a comprehensive TRL program that protects residents and ultimately prevents tobacco-related death and disease in the community.

Sincerely,

Chase Kornacki, MPH
Advocacy and Public Policy Intern