



May 21, 2019

**Re: SB 38--Oppose**

The Honorable Jerry Hill  
State Capitol Room 5035  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Hill:

We wish to thank you for leading the effort to prohibit the sale of all flavored tobacco products in California. This bipartisan effort to protect youth and low-income communities from the scourge of flavored tobacco has been and will continue to be one of the most important public health policies the legislature can enact to save lives. However, due to the hostile amendments inserted into the bill in the Senate Appropriations Committee, we regret to inform you that we are withdrawing our cosponsorship of SB 38 and moving to an oppose position. Exempting hookah products set a terrible precedent and undermine the foundation of the original legislation to protect youth, low income and minority communities from flavored tobacco.

**Hookah is a dangerous product.**

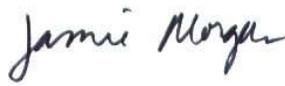
Water pipe smoke, like cigarette smoke, contains significant amounts of cancer-causing ingredients, such as arsenic, cobalt, chromium, lead, and carbon monoxide. In addition, smoke from a water pipe contains carbon monoxide (CO) in amounts equal to or greater than smoke from cigarettes. Research has shown that water pipe smoking has the same negative effect on lung function as cigarette smoking. Water pipe smokers can be exposed to sufficient doses of nicotine to lead to addiction. Additional research found that using a water pipe was equivalent to smoking two to 10 cigarettes per day. Water pipe smoke produces similarly increased blood nicotine levels and increases in heart rate as cigarette use. Smokers of water pipes may be exposed to even more smoke than cigarette smokers because water pipe smoking sessions last longer. One study found that during a typical water pipe smoking session, a user may inhale 90,000 milliliters of smoke compared with 500-600 milliliters of smoke during a cigarette smoking session. A World Health Organization report found that in a typical one-hour smoking session, users may inhale 100-200 times the amount of smoke as from a single cigarette. Another study found that during a typical one-hour water pipe use session a water pipe smoker likely generates ambient carcinogens and toxicants equivalent to that of 2-10 cigarette smokers. Unlike cigarettes, water pipe smoke may also contain charcoal or wood cinder combustion products from the heat source used to burn the tobacco, increasing the cancer- and heart-disease causing agents in the smoke.

For these reasons, we must regretfully oppose this amended legislation if it is to move forward.

Sincerely,



Lindsey Freitas  
Senior Director, Advocacy  
American Lung  
Association in California



Jamie Morgan  
Government Relations  
Director  
American Heart Association



Tim Gibbs  
Senior Director, Government Relations  
American Cancer Society  
Cancer Action Network