



National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health

October 31, 2019

Simon McNabb
Senior Policy Advisor
Office on Smoking and Health
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Rd.
Atlanta, GA 30333

Re: Nomination for Appointment of Dr. Sara Cody to the Interagency Committee on Smoking and Health

Dear Mr. McNabb:

On behalf of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), I write to nominate Dr. Sara Cody to serve as a member of the Interagency Committee on Smoking and Health (ICSH) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This nomination is being made in partnership with the Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC), which will submit a letter under separate cover. NACCHO is the voice of the nearly 3,000 local health departments across the country. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work every day to protect and promote health and well-being for all people in their communities.

Dr. Cody possesses a deep understanding of, and passion for, the science, policy, and operational realities of tobacco control, as well as intersecting epidemics, such as associated chronic disease and behavioral and adolescent health conditions. As Health Officer and Director of the Public Health Department for the County of Santa Clara in California, Dr. Cody oversees 450 full-time employees and a \$110 million budget to serve a jurisdiction of approximately 1.8 million people which includes the city of San Jose, the tenth largest city in the country. Her community is home to one of the most socio-economically and ethnically diverse populations in the nation, with a large immigrant population from every corner of the globe.

Local health departments are deeply rooted in the fabric of the community and work every day to create the conditions through which their residents can gain the resources and knowledge necessary to stay safe and healthy to live long and productive lives. Local health departments have been leaders in tobacco policy and practice for decades, pioneering programs to address the leading cause of premature death. Dr. Cody would provide not only this unique perspective but would also serve as an important link to the realities of local public health practice.

Dr. Cody is uniquely situated to share advice and information on innovative practices local health departments have implemented, as well as make recommendations on policies that will affect the health of impacted communities. She has expertise in emerging tobacco control policies and experience in analyzing, evaluating, and interpreting federal, state and/or local regulations and policies and implementing them in her jurisdiction. Under the leadership of Dr. Cody, the County of Santa Clara, like many local jurisdictions, took the initiative many years ago, in the absence of federal regulatory action



to address the use of traditional tobacco products and has continued that commitment in current efforts to address the growing vaping epidemic today. The County was one of the first jurisdictions in California to pass an ordinance restricting the sale of tobacco products to adults 21 and older, as well as to require tobacco retail licenses, to restrict flavors, and to implement a number of ordinances to prevent exposure to second-hand smoke. In addition to the thousands of preventable deaths from secondhand smoke exposure and other smoking-related illnesses, smoking costs the County of Santa Clara millions of dollars every year.

She also brings national leadership and policy experience. She has been actively engaged with NACCHO and BCHC for over a decade, demonstrating a commitment to advance and enhance the capacity of local health departments to apply emerging evidence and best practices in a host of areas, including tobacco. Dr. Cody served as a NACCHO Board Member, during which time she sat on the Executive Committee as the voice for the nation's largest public health jurisdictions. She has served for two years in the leadership of BCHC and will become the Chair in January 2020.

Dr. Cody will bring a breadth and depth of relevant and important experience and expertise to the ICSH. Her membership will ensure that lessons learned in local communities are included and inform the work of this important federal advisory committee. Additionally, her wide range of experience and knowledge—including the intersection of health equity, behavioral health, and tobacco use—will bolster the ICSH's ability to provide well-rounded advice. She will offer valuable insight about tobacco use, control, prevention, and cessation from the ground level, offering insights about challenges and successes from local communities. She has my highest recommendation, and I am confident that she has the expertise and willingness to be an active and valuable member of this Committee. Thank you for your consideration of her membership. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact NACCHO Chief of Government and Public Affairs, Adriane Casalotti, MSW, MPH, at acasalotti@naccho.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori Tremmel Freeman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Lori Tremmel Freeman, MBA
Chief Executive Officer