



**Tompkins County
New York**

**Resolution
RES-2014-109**

Adopted
Jun 17, 2014 5:30 PM

A Resolution in Support of Ending Tobacco Sales at Pharmacies

Information

Department: Health Department **Sponsors:**
Category: Public Health

Attachments

[Printout](#)

Resolution/Document Body

WHEREAS, in the State of New York, the practice and services of a pharmacy refers to the preparation and dispensing of drugs, as well as the counseling of patients in the proper use of these drugs, and¹

WHEREAS, the National Association of Chain Drug Stores identifies its members as “The face of neighborhood healthcare,” and “an integral component of the healthcare system”, and²

WHEREAS, tobacco products are highly addictive and responsible for the preventable death of more than 25,000 people in New York each year, and

WHEREAS, it is a conflict of interest for pharmacies or other providers of health care to also profit from the sale of harmful products such as tobacco, known to cause cancer, heart, and pulmonary diseases, and³

WHEREAS, tobacco sales in pharmacies raise ethical questions since tobacco is the only consumer product that, when used as intended, will kill at least one half of its long term users, and⁴

WHEREAS, tobacco companies use health oriented stores such as pharmacies and drug stores to help legitimize their products and increase exposure to tobacco marketing and advertising, and⁵

WHEREAS, according to a 2013 consultant survey, a majority (59.7%) of adult residents of Tompkins County believe pharmacies should not be allowed to sell tobacco products, and⁶

WHEREAS, the majority of pharmacists are opposed to pharmacies selling tobacco, and⁷

WHEREAS, the findings of the 2012 Surgeon General’s Report indicates that tobacco marketing increases youth tobacco use, and

WHEREAS, according to the Attorneys General of 28 states and territories, including New York, removing tobacco products from stores that contain a pharmacy would be a, “step forward in keeping tobacco products away from youth,” and preventing youth smoking initiation, and⁸

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Board of Health supports ending the sale of tobacco products in pharmacies and stores that contain a pharmacy department and has adopted a similar resolution at its April 2014 Board meeting, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services Committee, That the Tompkins County Legislature supports ending the sale of tobacco products in all pharmacies and stores that contain a pharmacy department.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

¹ What You Should Know About Pharmacists; NYS Education Department. Available at: <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/pharm/pharmbroch.htm> [Accessed: 04/4/2014]

² National Association of Chain Drug Stores Mission Statement. Available at: <http://www.nacds.org/aboutus/mission.aspx> [Accessed: 04/8/2014]

³ Bero, L., Corelli, R., Hudmon K., Kroon L. Position paper on amending the San Francisco Public Health Code to prohibit pharmacies from selling tobacco products. July 14, 2008. Available at: <http://www.no-smoke.org/pdf/Pharmacy%20UCSF-TobaccoSalesPositionPaper-v14-%28on%20letterhead%291.pdf> [Accessed 4/5/2014]

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Landman, Anne. The beginning of the end of cigarettes for sale in pharmacies? PR Watch. Oct. 2, 2008. <http://www.prwatch.org/news/2008/10/7809/beginning-end-cigarettes-sale-pharmacies> [Accessed 4/9/2014]

⁶ Community Tobacco Survey of Adult Residents of Tompkins. Joel LaLone Consulting, Watertown, N.Y. June 2013.

⁷ Hudmon K, Fenlon CM, Corelli RL, Prokhorov AV, Schroeder SA. Tobacco sales in pharmacies: Time to quit. Tobacco Control 2006; 15(1):35-38.

⁸ Office of the Attorney General, New York State. "A.G. Schneiderman Spearheads National Effort Calling On Major Pharmacies To Stop Selling Tobacco Products." Press release, March 17, 2014. <http://www.ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneiderman-spearheads-national-effort-calling-major-pharmacies-stop-selling> [Accessed 3/28/14]

Meeting History

Jun 10, 2014 3:30 PM **Health and Human Services Committee** **Regular Meeting**

Mr. Kruppa said the resolution was prepared following the Committee's review of the Board of Health resolution on this topic. The resolution will not have any regulatory authority but is to state support for removing the sale of tobacco products in pharmacies.

Mr. Klein said he would not support the resolution since he believes there are many other items sold in pharmacies that are not healthy (candy, sodas, etc.) and he does not find a reason to ban one product and not others.

Mr. Stein disagrees with Mr. Klein's reason and said the difference is that tobacco use is addictive.

RESULT: RECOMMENDED [4 TO 1]
MOVER: Kathy Luz Herrera, Vice Chair
SECONDER: Will Burbank, Member
AYES: Peter Stein, Kathy Luz Herrera, Will Burbank, Nathan Shinagawa
NAYS: Daniel Klein

Jun 17, 2014 5:30 PM Media **Tompkins County Legislature** **Regular Meeting**

Mr. Kruppa, Public Health Director, clarified that the resolution does not include regulations but sends a supporting message to end the practice of selling tobacco products in pharmacies.

Mr. Stein said a resolution such as this does not have a significant impact, however, all the steps taken lead to a reduction.

Ms. Kiefer asked whether the County has the authority to restrict sales as noted in the resolution. Mr. Kruppa said the County Attorney would have to provide his opinion; the resolution is to bring about awareness. Mr. Wood said he is not aware of any municipality that has done this and believes it could be legally challenged.

Ms. Herrera seconded the motion due to pressure to end bad behaviors. She spoke about the efforts at the Grassroots Festival with the Sticker Shock program and believes that things as simple as that can be helpful. She also noted Cayuga Medical Center has become a tobacco-free campus and a great deal of its success is in education.

Mr. Robison asked why Mr. Klein had not supported the resolution at the Committee meeting. Mr. Klein said there are many items sold that may not be healthy and he does not see the correlation of those selling unhealthy products and tobacco as different.

RESULT: ADOPTED [12 TO 2]
MOVER: Peter Stein, Member
SECONDER: Kathy Luz Herrera, Member
AYES: Will Burbank, Carol Chock, James Dennis, Kathy Luz Herrera, Dooley Kiefer, Michael Lane, David McKenna, Martha Robertson, Brian Robison, Nathan Shinagawa, Michael Sigler, Peter Stein
NAYS: Daniel Klein, Leslyn McBean-Clairborne

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