REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION 31

PROP 31 IS PROHIBITION and PROHIBITION NEVER WORKS

We can all agree kids should not use tobacco. That's why it's already illegal in California to sell tobacco — including vapes — to anyone younger than 21 years old.

Prop 31 is adult prohibition, and prohibition has never worked — it didn't work with alcohol or marijuana, and it won't work now.

PROP 31 WILL MAKE THINGS WORSE

The proponents claim Prop 31 will reduce youth tobacco use, but experience shows it could backfire. When San Francisco passed a similar flavor ban after promising big reductions in youth tobacco use, a Yale University study found there was a significant INCREASE in cigarette smoking among high school students.

PROP 31 WILL LEAD TO MORE CRIME

Research shows nearly half the cigarettes smoked in California are from illegal sources. Prop 31 will increase illegal smuggling and counterfeit markets and force even more tobacco sales into underground markets controlled by organized criminal gangs. Prop 31 will drive up crime — especially in minority communities where menthol is preferred.
PROP 31 WILL REDUCE TAX REVENUE AND CUT ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Prop 31 will reduce state tax revenue by $1 billion over the next four years — cutting funds for healthcare, education, seniors, and law enforcement.

PUBLIC EDUCATION IS BETTER THAN PROP 31

Current laws and public education campaigns are working. Youth vaping is down 59% in the last three years, and youth smoking is at an all-time low of just 1.9%, according to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and the FDA.

Prohibition has never worked. Let’s not make the same mistake again.

NO ON PROP 31

YASHA NIKITIN, California Police Officer

CLINT OLIVIER, Chief Executive Officer, Central Valley Business Federation

PAT FONG KUSHIDA, President, CalAsian Chamber of Commerce
REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION 3.

Sheri Coburn, Executive Director
California School Nurses Organization