

COMMUNITY ACTION TO FIGHT ASTHMA (CAFA) POLICY OPPORTUNITIES

Background Information

Single Payer Health Care: Efforts to pass legislation creating a single payer health care system in California. Three documents (SB 810 Fact Sheet, Key Features, and Another View) provide details about this effort to expand health care coverage in California.

School Facilities Bond: The current program, funded through state bond measure in 2006, will run out of funding this year. The state is beginning to develop the next bond program for state funding for school facilities. Currently, funding from the state is awarded on a first come, first serve basis and requires local matching funds. A new school bond effort gives CAFA the opportunity to advocate for changes that help remove barriers that have kept some of the schools with the most need from accessing these funds and improving their facilities. A recent report by the Center for Cities and Schools at UC Berkeley provides a great overview of the success and shortcomings of the current program and offers recommendations we may find useful.

California Healthy Housing Coalition (CHHC): Two housing policies being developed for 2013:

- Exposure to pesticides in rental housing – When confronted with pest infestations, homeowners have a choice on how much they want to expose their family to pesticides. Tenants, however, are not afforded that choice and are often exposed to pesticides that cause illness and exacerbate asthma in their family. CHHC is proposing a bill that would require landlords to use integrated pest management (IPM). IPM is a method for addressing pest problems by minimizing exposure to pesticides and addressing the underlying conditions that are the root of the pest problem (food and water sources and entry points).
- Enforcement authority for pest infestations – Current state code puts the authority for enforcing pest infestations in the health officer, a county position. Some cities do not have access to this county resource and are left without the ability to cite for pest infestations. CHHC is proposing a bill that would address this loophole so that tenants in all cities can get pest infestations dealt with.

California Air Resources Board (CARB):

- Statewide Freight Initiative – within the next two years CARB plans to explore regulations to reduce and mitigate freight emissions. Much like the diesel regulations CAFA worked on in years past, this initiative may provide several opportunities for CAFA members to advocate for policies to improve local air quality as freight impacts hit all communities.
- Energy Efficiency Industrial Regulations – Connected to the state's broader efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, CARB is looking at some of the rules in place to meet greenhouse gas reduction goals. Given that reducing GHG emissions tend to also reduce emissions of other criteria pollutants that impact air quality and asthma, this may be an issue CAFA would want to weigh in on. At issue are proposed regulations that would allow industries to focus emissions reductions at some facilities while leaving others untouched through the ability to use excess reductions at one facility as credit for reducing emissions at another without any actual reductions at that facility. The result would be that some communities will not see any air quality benefits from these emissions reductions efforts.



PRIORITIZATION FORM
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1. Please rank the following policy topics 1-4, with 1 being top priority and 4 being last priority.

- a. _____ Single payer health care
- b. _____ School facilities bond
- c. _____ Healthy housing legislation focused on pest infestations
- d. _____ Freight and industrial emissions regulations at the California Air Resources Board

Please select one response for each of the following statements.

2. Single payer health care should be a policy priority.

- Strongly disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

3. School facilities bond should be a policy priority.

- Strongly disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

4. Healthy housing legislation focused on pest infestations should be a policy priority.

- Strongly disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

5. Freight and industrial emissions regulations at the California Air Resources Board should be a policy priority.

- Strongly disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree