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DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

May 25, 2021

RE: DPSFV Supports Assembly Bill 1163 (Sugary Drink Tax)

Representatives of the Honorable San Fernando Valley Delegation:

On behalf of the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley (DPSFV), we are pleased to report that our Executive Board voted to support AB 1163, which will repeal the state-wide preemption on local soda taxes set to expire in 2030 in order to decrease the consumption of sugary drinks. We urge you to support AB 1163.

DPSFV was founded in 1978 and is chartered by the Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee. Our organization is the coordinating body for a coalition of twenty-one Democratic Clubs located in the six Assembly Districts (38, 39, 43, 45, 46, and 50) which are wholly or partially in the San Fernando Valley.

The DPSFV Executive Board met this month and voted to support this vital piece of legislation. This bill does not implement any new taxes; rather it provides local governments with another tool to address health equity and funding for critical services. Research shows that black and brown communities face a disproportionately higher risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes, in part due to overconsumption of cheap sugary drinks. The Legislative Analyst's Office has identified the key health proposition behind AB 1163 as having the potential to lead to improved health outcomes, such as reduced rates of heart disease and diabetes.

Prior to the soda-industry backed ban on new sugary drink taxes, four California cities implemented similar voter-backed measures, generating millions of dollars in revenues to address critical health and funding needs. DPSFV is proud to join more than a dozen health and racial justice organizations including the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, the California Black Health Network, and the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California in supporting this vital legislation.

We urge you to support AB 1163.

Please note that DPSFV will be tracking this bill as it travels through the Legislature. Your voting record will be noted and may be considered should you ever seek our endorsement. Your office is always welcome to contact DPSFV if you have any questions.

Sincerely and respectfully,



Chair Sean M. Rivas
Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley

cc: Assembly Members Rivas, Friedman, Gabriel, Nazarian (author), and Bloom
Senators Hertzberg, Portantino, Stern and Allen

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