

Local Laws Can Lead National Conversations

By [AUTHORS NAME]

Good ideas start locally. Our local leaders need the ability to build on state policies that protect our health. However, our [STATE] state legislators are attempting to hold our communities back.

A bill is currently being considered by the [STATE] state legislature will prevent local leaders from passing laws that would positively impact our health and well-being. If passed, [BILL NUMBER] would [INFORMATION ABOUT THE BILL AND WHAT IS BEING PREEMPTED]

[PARAGRAPH SUPPORTING THE POLICY BEING PREEMPTED AND PROVIDING BACKGROUND ON THE ISSUE LOCALLY]

Apart from the merits of [ISSUE BEING PREEMPTED], the precedent set by [BILL NUMBER] of state leaders blocking communities from meeting their own needs is bad for [STATE]'s residents and can hurt communities most where the need is the greatest.

Local policies can change the conversation on important issues. For example, nearly 30 years ago, San Luis Obispo—a mid-sized city in southwest California—became the first city to pass a law ensuring smoke-free air in public buildings. Since then, 36 states and more than 5,000 municipalities in the United States have passed some type of smoke-free air laws, which are proven to reduce exposure to the harmful effects of secondhand smoke. When our local policymakers can lead the way, their creative and innovative solutions can eventually impact the entire country in a positive way.

State leaders have an important role to play in our health and I'm proud of the progress [STATE] has made on issues such as [INSERT POSITIVE STATEWIDE POLICIES]. However, our local leaders should be able to build on this progress and legislation like [BILL NUMBER] prevents them from putting the needs of their constituents first.

Creating a healthy and equitable [STATE] requires work and effort on all of our leaders at every level of government. Everyone should be able to benefit from smart and effective policies. Call your state legislators today and urge them to oppose [BILL NUMBER] in order to preserve our local leaders' ability to do their job.