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# STATEMENT RE: Soda Tax Ban

## *Beverage Industry Extorts California Legislature to Deny Communities Health Taxation Rights*

**SACRAMENTO, CA, June 28, 2018...** *“Nearly two decades ago, Public Health Advocates introduced the first soda tax bill as a means of safeguarding public health and providing communities with the resources they need to protect and promote the well-being of children. Today, the unholy trinity of soda, alcohol and oil employed insidious back-room dealings to extort legislators to walk away from their obligations to public health, and to instead shield those unhealthy industries from local taxes for a dozen years.*

*In the face of an obesity epidemic and rising diabetes rates largely attributed to the increases in sugary drink consumption among Californians, we lost one of our most effective tools to educate and protect our citizens from the soda industry’s irresponsible and often predatory marketing practices. This is a sad day for California, for the health of the state and for children who are largely preyed upon by soda and sugary beverage producers.”*

**Dr. Harold Goldstein**

Executive Director, Public Health Advocates

Public Health Advocates (PHAdvocates) is an independent nonpartisan, nonprofit organization at the forefront of solving the obesity and diabetes epidemics by advocating for groundbreaking policies that build a healthier California. PHAdvocates played a leading role in removing soda and junk food from public schools, passing California’s landmark restaurant menu labeling law and funding the Diabetes Prevention Program in Medi-Cal. For more information visit: [www.PHAdvocates.org](http://www.PHAdvocates.org).