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To Whom It May Concern,

Los Angeles Youth First Tobacco Coalition's (LAYFTC) focus is to advocate for stronger tobacco control policies to be implemented in vulnerable communities including minority communities such as LGBTQ and people of color in order to reduce youth access to flavored tobacco products. LAYFTC is concerned about these products because they have been shown to contribute to the youth vaping epidemic and addiction. Tobacco remains one of the leading causes of preventable death for many minority groups such as LGBTQ and people of color.<sup>1</sup> The tobacco industry aggressively markets menthol and other flavored tobacco products to young people and minorities, especially in urban communities.<sup>2</sup>

In response to the youth e-cigarette epidemic where 6,100 children now start vaping every day<sup>3</sup>, LAYFTC offers no-cost prevention presentations and advocacy workshops on youth and young adult tobacco use (including e-cigarette use and vaping) as part of our Break Free from Nicotine Campaign. The campaign aims to empower Los Angeles youth and young adults to not only "break free" from tobacco use, but to advocate for tobacco prevention policies in their community and help keep their peers free from tobacco-related harms.

We ask for your help in assisting LAYFTC to inform your students of our campaign's goals and help us find members interested in getting involved with our community efforts to protect Los Angeles youth from the youth vaping epidemic. Members get the chance to experience community organizing activities including the following: collect letters of support/petition signatures for stronger policies, conduct educational presentations to raise awareness on tobacco control issues, recruit supporters to the campaign, meet with media/elected officials to educate and inform them on the issue, and create various advocacy media projects.

Please let us know if you are interested in any of our services. We would love the opportunity to meet with you if there is some work we can collaborate on and strengthen by a partnership between your organization and school and our campaign.

Sincerely,

Hilcia Guerra, Executive Chair

Andy Lau, Secretary Chair

<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization. WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Food and Drug Administration. Preliminary Scientific Evaluation of the Possible Public Health Effects of Menthol Versus Nonmenthol Cigarettes. 2013.

<sup>3</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Youth Tobacco Survey, 2017.