



**CavityFree SF
Implementation
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To: San Francisco Commission Streamlining Task Force

Dear Commission Streamlining Task Force Members,

We are writing to you to strongly urge you to maintain the current structure of the Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax Advisory Committee (SDDTAC).

We are strongly opposed to eliminating this legislatively established body created through the will of the San Francisco voters to ensure that the SDDT revenues are allocated transparently, equitably and in ways that effectively address health disparities created by sugary beverage consumption. This Committee includes community and health equity leaders, as well as subject matter experts simply not found on other commissions.

SDDTAC's scope extends far beyond food access and the charge of the Food Security Task Force. It is legislated to include an Oral Health subject matter expert seat, to respond to the impacts of sugar sweetened beverage consumption on the oral health of San Franciscans. Neither the Food Security Task Force, the Health Commission, nor the San Francisco Department of Public Health top leadership have members or staff with a background in dentistry. The SDDTAC is the only City Commission with a board-certified dentist, who is charged with regularly reviewing the oral health outcome data, and supporting oral health education, screening and preventative services that support the San Francisco communities most vulnerable to predatory practices of the soda industry.

In the 2024-2025 school year, nearly half of the Black or African American San Francisco Kindergarteners have had cavities by the age of six. 1 in 4 of San Francisco Kindergarteners were experiencing *untreated* dental decay. With a constantly shrinking number of safety net dental offices willing to serve young children, the SDDTAC continues to be one of the few advocates of oral health services in San Francisco.

The SDDTAC continues to intentionally and regularly respond to the needs of the communities and to the will of the San Francisco voters. To dismantle or absorb it into another body would erode public trust, undermine voter intent, and weaken San Francisco's leadership in public health innovation. We strongly urge the Commission Streamlining Task Force to keep the SDDTAC in full.

Sincerely,

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