SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

Political realities of statewide smoking legislation: the passage of California’s Assembly Bill 13

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Abstract

Objective—To prepare a history of the enactment of California Assembly Bill 13 (AB 13), a state law prohibiting smoking in most workplaces passed in 1994, and to discuss its initial impacts.

Methods—Data were gathered from open ended interviews with representatives of voluntary health organisations, local government organisations, and principal legislators involved in the process, as well as observers around the state who could provide insight into the legislative process. Information was also obtained from legislative hearings and debates, public documents, letters and personal communications, internal memoranda, and news reports.

Results—The success of local tobacco control legislation in California led to a situation in which some health groups were willing to accept state preemption in order to attract the support of the state restaurant association for a bill. The decision to accept this preemption compromise was made by the state level offices of the voluntary health agencies without consulting the broader tobacco control community within California. In contrast, local tobacco control advocates did not accept this compromise, in part because of their belief that local legislation was a better device to educate the public, generate media coverage, and build community support for enforcement and implementation of clean indoor air and other tobacco control laws. Enactment of AB 13 was associated with a slowing of all local tobacco control legislation, including youth oriented laws.

Conclusions—Because its supporters initially doubted that AB 13 would pass, there was never an effort to reconcile the policy differences between state oriented and locally oriented tobacco control policies. This lack of consensus, combined with the political realities inherent in passing any state legislation, led to a bill with ambiguous preemption language which replaced the “patchwork of local laws” with a “patchwork of local enforcement.”

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When the non-smokers’ rights movement first developed in the United States in the 1970s, tobacco control advocates could not pass state laws restricting tobacco use because of the influence the tobacco had in state governments, so they turned to pursuing local ordinances. The strategy of passing local ordinances used the organisational strengths of local tobacco control advocates as well as the weaknesses of the tobacco industry. The success of this local strategy was evident by the increasing number of local ordinances passed between 1977 and 1994, a trend that accelerated in response to the 1992 US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report that identified environmental tobacco smoke as a “class A” (known human) carcinogen. The tobacco industry’s primary strategy to oppose local ordinances and protect its interests has been to enact weak, unenforceable state laws that preempt or disallow local ordinances regulating smoking. As of January 1996, 18 states had preempted local clean indoor air laws and preemption language in some form has been considered in tobacco control legislation in every state in the nation.

In California, as a result of local activity, by 1993 nearly two thirds of workers were protected by local laws mandating 100% smoke-free workplaces, and 87% worked with some restriction on workplace smoking. Additionally, the passage of a tobacco tax ballot initiative in 1988, Proposition 99, and the anti-tobacco education campaign it funded, raised public awareness about the health dangers of passive smoking and stimulated the development of local tobacco control coalitions throughout the state. These local tobacco control coalitions used the issue of clean indoor air to mobilise the general public to support a broader tobacco control agenda.

The success of local tobacco control legislation in California led to a situation in which some health groups were willing to accept state preemption in order to attract the support of the state restaurant association for a bill, Assembly Bill 13 (AB 13), which mandated 100% smoke-free workplaces. The decision to accept this preemption compromise was made by the state level offices of the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, and the American Lung Association without consulting the broader tobacco control community within California. In contrast,
local tobacco control advocates, whose interests were represented by Americans for Non-smokers' Rights, did not accept this compromise, in part because of a belief that local legislation was a better device to educate the public, generate media coverage, and build community support for enforcement and implementation of clean indoor air and other tobacco control laws. Because its supporters initially doubted that AB 13 would pass, there was never an effort to reconcile these policy differences between state oriented and locally oriented tobacco control policies. This lack of consensus, combined with the political realities inherent in passing any state legislation, led to a bill with ambiguous preemption language and replaced the "patchwork of local laws" with a "patchwork of local enforcement."

**Methods**

Data for this case study were gathered from taped open ended interviews with 22 representatives of voluntary health organisations, local government organisations, and principal legislators involved in the process, as well as observers around the state who could provide insight into the legislative process. Information was also obtained from legislative hearings and debates, public documents, letters and personal communications, internal memoranda, and news reports.

All key informants were allowed to review and comment on a draft of the manuscript; we invited comments on accuracy of our representation of events as well as comments on our interpretation of those events. These comments were used in preparing the final manuscript for submission.

Data on passage of local ordinances were obtained from Americans for Non-smokers' Rights (Berkeley, California) database of local ordinances. Data on prevalence of environmental tobacco smoke exposure in workplaces were obtained from the California tobacco survey conducted by the California Department of Health Services.

Our study has two main methodological limitations. The tobacco industry declined to be interviewed. Instead, a tobacco industry perspective was provided by the staff of legislators who are supportive of tobacco industry positions, public statements by business organisations of which the tobacco industry is a member, and by observations of tobacco control advocates and others knowledgeable about tobacco industry activities in opposition to smoking restriction legislation. Likewise, Assemblyman Curtis Tucker (Democrat from Ingelwood), who carried the tobacco industry's competing bill, refused to be interviewed.

The bill's author, Terry Friedman (Democrat from Santa Monica), declined to participate in the study. Friedman's staff stated they would only answer written questions. After another request for an interview, Friedman answered he would only grant the interview if he was provided with transcripts of interviews with other participants with their permission. When this request was declined, Friedman and his staff returned written questions unanswered. Thus his perspective is not directly included. However, by relying upon interviews with key supporters, written communication between Friedman and the coalition provided by coalition members, and written communication between Friedman and the case study authors, we believe we represented Friedman's activities and perspective.

Another limitation of this study is the fact that one of the authors (Glantz) was identified with the strategy of local ordinances for controlling tobacco use. This author had also had relationships with several of the organisations that were protagonists on both sides of the debate over AB 13. He served as an officer of Americans for Non-smokers' Rights from 1981 to 1986 (at which time he left the board) and acted as an informal consultant to Americans for Non-smokers' Rights, the American Heart Association, and the American Lung Association during the period covered by this paper.

**Results**

**FRIEDMAN'S EARLY ATTEMPT TO PASS STATE CLEAN INDOOR AIR LEGISLATION**

In February 1992, Assembly member Terry Friedman introduced a non-preemptive statewide clean indoor air law, Assembly Bill 2667 (AB 2667), to prohibit smoking in all enclosed workplaces. Friedman promoted the bill as an alternative to local tobacco control ordinances. Because AB 2667 dealt with labour law, Friedman designated the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA) in the state Department of Industrial Relations, as opposed to the Department of Health Services, to be the enforcement agency. The voluntary health organisations (American Lung Association, American Heart Association, and American Cancer Society) supported AB 2667, as did the California Medical Association and California Labor Federation (AFL-CIO). Despite its lack of enthusiasm for state legislation on clean indoor air issues, the national non-smokers' rights activist group, Americans for Non-smokers' Rights (ANR), also expressed support for Friedman's efforts so long as his bill did not contain language that preempted local ordinances. In any event, the chance the
the bill would pass was considered very low, because, in addition to the tobacco industry, other traditional opponents of tobacco control—particularly the hospitality and tourism industries—were unlikely to allow the bill to go forward. Neither the state level voluntary health agencies nor ANR (and other supporters of the local ordinance approach) saw any practical reason to engage in broad consultation over the desirability of a state law versus simply continuing to concentrate on local ordinances, much less a discussion of the conditions under which state preemption of local ordinances would be an acceptable compromise to obtain a state smoke-free workplace law.

The prospect of enacting statewide workplace smoking legislation improved dramatically when Friedman negotiated support for his bill from the California Restaurant Association (CRA). The CRA was concerned about increasing scientific evidence that linked environmental tobacco smoke with illness and the threat of workers compensation and Americans with Disabilities Act claims for tobacco induced diseases. Before the introduction of AB 2667, the CRA board had taken the position that there should be a single statewide standard regulating smoking in all public places, including restaurants, and that the CRA would continue to oppose local ordinances due to business concerns about unfair competition. CRA general counsel Jo-Linda Thompson explained the need for a single state rule saying, "The 200 local ordinances are inconsistent. We want one rule that everyone understands." The CRA made its support of Friedman's state legislation conditional on inclusion of preemption of local ordinances. Subsequently, to attract CRA support for his bill, Friedman amended AB 2667 to include a preemption provision that would:

supersede and render unnecessary the local enactment or enforcement of local ordinances regulating the smoking of tobacco products in enclosed places of employment [section 2(c)].

The CRA endorsed the amended bill. This was the first time an important business lobby in Sacramento (the state capital) had supported tobacco control legislation, and the CRA was viewed as an important addition to the coalition of health groups supporting AB 2667.

By continuing to support AB 2667 after it was amended, the state voluntary health agencies had adopted a position that conflicted with their national organisations' policy against preemption. In 1989, in response to a growing number of states where the tobacco industry had proposed and enacted preemptive state legislation, the national voluntary health agencies, acting through the Coalition on Smoking OR Health, took a strong anti-preemption position. It recommended to its voluntary health agencies' affiliates seeking state tobacco control legislation that:

it is better to have no law than one that eliminates a local government body's authority to act to protect the public health.

If a preemptive bill or preemption amendment was introduced, no matter how friendly to the health groups' interests, the national coalition suggested that affiliates inform the legislator, that:

unless the preemption is removed from the bill that your organisation can no longer support the bill.

Despite this clear national policy to the contrary, the state voluntary health organisations and Friedman defended the preemption language by arguing that the bill would make all workplaces 100% smoke-free, so no local community could legislate a weaker standard, and the preemption was a moot issue.

Rather than opposing the bill, ANR took a neutral position, stating their opposition to the preemption clause and raising concerns regarding Cal/OSHA's ability to actively enforce the law. As before, however, no one called for a direct discussion of the public policy implications of accepting preemption or pushing for a state law or what other compromises would be acceptable, probably because AB 2667 was still viewed as unlikely to pass.

ANR and the supporters of AB 2667 were, however, concerned that by accepting preemption in principle, it would create a situation in which the tobacco industry would "hijack" the bill and weaken the tobacco control provisions while maintaining the preemption. In an effort to allay these concerns, Friedman modified the severability clause in the bill to try and limit the preemption in the event the bill was weakened:

In the event this section is repealed or modified by subsequent legislative or judicial action so that the (100 percent) smoking prohibition is no longer applicable to all enclosed places of employment in California, local governments shall have the full right and authority to enact and enforce restrictions on the smoking of tobacco products in enclosed places of employment within their jurisdictions, including a complete prohibition of smoking [section 2(d)].

Friedman and the bill's supporters argued that this language would protect local ordinances because should future legislation weaken the smoke-free mandate, the preemption clause would self-destruct.

In April 1992, Friedman solicited an analysis from the Legislative Counsel (the legislature's legal office) regarding the severability clause. The Legislative Counsel concluded that the severability clause offered no legal protection against future tobacco industry attempts to weaken the smoke-free mandate but maintain the preemption of local ordinances relating to smoking in workplaces because the current session of the legislature had no authority to bind future sessions of the legislature. The voluntary health agencies continued to support the bill because of its 100% smoke-free workplace mandate.

Even with the support of the restaurants, labour groups, and voluntary health agencies,
AB 2667 failed to pass the Labor and Employment Committee in June 1992.

THE BIRTH OF AB 13

Friedman reintroduced AB 2667 as Assembly Bill 13 (AB 13) in the following legislative session in December 1992, and it was assigned to Friedman's Labor and Employment Committee in February 1993. The bill was cosponsored by the CRA, the American Heart Association, AFL-CIO, and the California Medical Association.44 The American Heart Association, American Lung Association, and American Cancer Society supported the bill because they wanted smoke-free workplaces. The bill was opposed by groups representing the tourism and hospitality industries and the Tobacco Institute.45 In addition, ANR opposed the bill because they objected to preemption. They were also concerned that Cal/OSHA would be a less responsive enforcing agency than local health departments or similar agencies, who enforced many local ordinances.46 The anti-tobacco activist group Doctors Ought to Care,47 the California State Association of Counties,48 and the City of Lodi49 also opposed the bill because of the preemption language.

In any event, these differences of opinion still appeared moot. Despite the broadened support for the bill, it was still viewed as unlikely to pass; Dian Kiser, lobbyist for the American Heart Association, wrote her local affiliates, "Frankly, the chance of passage of AB 13, like AB 2667, is minuscule."50 There was still no formal policy discussion within the California tobacco control community regarding the issue of state versus local legislation as long as preemption was an acceptable compromise. Rather than engaging the issue of preemption as a policy issue, supporters of the bill fell back on the argument that since AB 13 was "100% smoke-free," the issue of preemption was not important.

This difference of interpretation of the preemption language in AB 13 was a constant feature of the debate over the bill. For example, there was no agreement within the legislature concerning the meaning of the preemption language when AB 13 was taken up by Friedman's Labor and Employment committee. On the one hand, the committee analysis, prepared by Friedman's Democratic staff, concluded that AB 13 would only supersede local ordinances as long as the 100% smoking prohibition was in effect.51 On the other hand, the committee's Republican analysis of the bill disagreed and concluded this act would preempt all local ordinances.52 In an effort to address enforcement issues raised by ANR, the bill was amended to designate "appropriate local law enforcement agencies" (police) as the enforcement agency responsible for levying fines for violations.53

AB 13, unlike AB 2667, passed out of the Labor and Education Committee. Newspapers credited AB 13's passage out of committee to Wilson's decision in early 1993 to end smoking in all state government buildings.54 At the first hearing of the Ways and Means Committee, Friedman added two amendments in a continuing effort to respond to concerns about preemption and enforcement. The first clarified the severability clause to ensure that should AB 13's smoke-free mandate be weakened, communities could not only pass and enforce future ordinances but also enforce existing ordinances.55 The second amendment also amended AB 13 to allow local governments to designate a local agency to enforce the law, rather than specifying local police.56

While AB 13 was being considered by the Ways and Means committee, the League of California Cities, which had remained neutral on AB 2667, changed its position to support for AB 13,57 on the grounds that the bill would allow local governments to pass restrictions on tobacco in areas the bill did not cover.58

THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY'S RESPONSE TO AB 13: ASSEMBLY BILL 996

The tobacco industry pursued several strategies to counter AB 13. First, together with affiliated organisations (including the Southern California Business Association, which listed a registered Philip Morris lobbyist as a board member),59 and the California Manufacturers Association, of whom Philip Morris was a member60), it lobbied against the bill on the grounds that AB 13 would be detrimental for Californian business.61 Second, the tobacco industry tried to have the bill amended to weaken the smoking restrictions, while maintaining the preemption, as it had done successfully in other states.62 Finally, the tobacco industry proposed a weak preemptive law (AB 996) that would preempt local regulation of smoking, to compete with AB 13.

On 19 April 1993 Assemblymember Curtis Tucker amended AB 996 to permit smoking in workplaces when employers met the ventilation standard defined by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standard 62-1989. The ASHRAE standard stated that it was not strict enough to protect workers from environmental tobacco smoke and because it was already incorporated into most building codes in the state, its inclusion in AB 996 would have allowed smoking in virtually all workplaces. AB 996 also proposed ineffective locking devices to control vending machine cigarette sales to youth,63 and preempted all future tobacco control laws. AB 996 was assigned to the Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization, chaired by Tucker, where it passed by 9 to 0. The bill was then referred to the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means, where AB 13 was being debated. AB 996 was supported by the tobacco industry and its allies in the business community.64 AB 996 was opposed by the same coalition of health, local government, and business groups that supported AB 13, as well as those who supported AB 13 because of its provisions concerning the preemption clause.65 The CRA opposed AB 996 because it protected existing local clean indoor air laws with a grandfather clause, as well as would not lead to a uniform smoking policy.
enforced around the state. They also feared it would not protect restaurant owners from claims and lawsuits under the workers compensation programme or the Americans with Disabilities Act, and that forcing restaurants to meet the ASHRAE ventilation standards would be prohibitively expensive for small restaurants.

The introduction of AB 996 changed the debate over state smoking restrictions. Before the emergence of AB 996 as a competing bill to AB 13, media coverage of AB 13 included the debate among tobacco control advocates over the merits of AB 13, particularly ANR's concern with preemption. When AB 996 started moving in tandem with AB 13, media coverage focused on a good bill (AB 13) v a bad bill (AB 996). Supporters of AB 13 were successful in garnering support for AB 13 and opposition to AB 996 from newspaper editorial boards all over the state. The fact that AB 996 preempts future local ordinances was an important point in rallying public opposition to the bill. Newspapers described AB 996 as a bill whose real purpose was to prevent local communities from approving their own tough anti-smoking ordinances. The policy debate over AB 13's preemption language was overshadowed in the competition between AB 13 and AB 996; the issue of preemption in AB 13 ceased to be viewed as worthy of attention by the press.

THE VIEW FROM OUTSIDE SACRAMENTO
Controversy over the net effect of AB 13's preemption provisions on local ordinances created confusion among local tobacco control advocates over whether or not to support AB 13. Local coalitions, composed of people from local affiliates of the voluntary health agencies, local medical associations, public health agencies, and individual activists, received conflicting information regarding the state debate over AB 13 and AB 996. While opposition to AB 996 was unanimous, the state voluntary health agencies urged support of AB 13 while ANR continued to urge opposition. Many individuals who participated in these local coalitions were members of both a voluntary health agency and ANR, and so were receiving action alerts from more than one organisation.

Some activists at the local level questioned the effect AB 13 would have on local legislation, and remained sceptical that a workable bill would emerge from the state legislature. Of particular concern was the preemption language and its effect on non-workplace provisions of local ordinances, including those mandating public education, or non-retaliation clauses (which would protect employees who complained about non-compliance with the smoke-free workplace requirement). Questions from those communities about AB 13 were interpreted by lobbyists at the American Lung Association and the American Cancer Society as efforts by ANR to undermine their authority, and they complained of having to use time and resources responding to what they perceived as ANR's misinterpretation of the bill. ANR viewed its effort as a legitimate way to present its opposition to preemption to the people most affected.

As controversy over the bill intensified, communication broke down between state players, and a hostile exchange emerged with local activists caught in the crossfire. Friedman and members of the AB 13 support coalition tried to quieten criticism of AB 13 from within California's tobacco control community. For example, in Ventura County, the Ventura Tobacco Control Coalition, drawing on information received from ANR, alerted its membership to oppose both AB 13 and AB 996 because of the preemption language in both bills. The Ventura Lung Association, a member of the Ventura Coalition, objected to the position because it conflicted with the state branches of American Lung Association, American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, and "all other supporters of Tobacco Control with the exception of ANR." The authors of the action alert were contacted by both the state office of the American Lung Association and Friedman's office, angered by their opposition to AB 13. As a result, the Ventura coalition sent its members an update the following day with an apology to Friedman, and a quote from the League of California Cities stating that since AB 13's mandate was 100% smoke-free, the preemption issue was moot. The net result of the Ventura altercation was a reluctance on the part of local coalitions to involve themselves in the issues surrounding AB 13. Thus the local activists most likely to be affected by AB 13 were disenfranchised from the policy debate.

Friedman was also publicly critical of members of the tobacco control community who questioned AB 13. Through a series of letters, Friedman initiated a debate between himself and academic experts in tobacco control, specifically Stanton Glantz (University of California, San Francisco), John Pierce (University of California, San Diego), John Farquhar (Stanford University), Peter Jacobson (Rand Corporation), and Michael Siegel (US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). Friedman stated AB 13 was not preemptive, saying "AB 13 contains unambiguous anti-preemption language." Friedman also questioned the importance of enacting local ordinances in terms of public education and subsequent implementation:

While I understand [the] view that regulation of smoking is best accomplished at the local level, I think thousands of California workers who are currently exposed to environmental tobacco smoke would disagree. That is why [supporters of AB 13] and I are more concerned about protecting workers' health than in the educational process of enacting local ordinances.
strategy should emphasize local legislation because local laws "will reach far ahead of any conceivable State laws."

In a public demonstration of the growing conflict among former tobacco control allies, the presidents of the state voluntary health agencies and the California Medical Association circulated a letter warning that "ANR's opposition is unsound and could have dangerous effects."

This letter was a modified version of a letter originally addressed from Friedman to the American Cancer Society, claiming that ANR authored "a shocking opposition letter which seriously distorts AB 13."

AB 13 AND AB 996 ON THE ASSEMBLY FLOOR

AB 13 and AB 996 were considered in tandem by the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. Despite the fact that they were contradictory in intent and effect, both bills passed the Committee, with several members voting for both of them. The bills next moved to the Assembly floor where AB 13 was amended on 24 May 1993 to exempt hotel guest rooms by excluding them from AB 13's definition of a "place of employment." Because AB 13 only preempted local regulation of "places of employment," local governments would be permitted to regulate hotel guest rooms.

Both AB 996 and AB 13 came to a floor vote in the Assembly on 1 June 1993, and both failed. Tucker's bill briefly recorded the majority 41 votes needed to pass, but four "aye" votes changed to "no" votes. Assemblyman Tom Umberg (Democrat from Garden Grove), one of the four who changed votes, explained that he did not want AB 996 to be the only tobacco bill that passed the Assembly. Two days later, AB 996 was taken up again, while reconsideration for AB 13 was delayed until the following week by a technicality. The tobacco industry's bill, AB 996, passed 42 to 34.

Friedman denounced passage of AB 996 as "an example of the absolutely disgusting power the tobacco industry wields in the legislature," a statement that seriously distorts AB 996. Several members of the CRA neutralized the effects of the Price Waterhouse study.

THE SENATE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

AB 13 and AB 996 were both assigned to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. AB 996 died in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. AB 13 was reconsidered, several southern California business groups, including the Southern California Business Association—a group with tobacco industry connections—released an economic study by the accounting firm of Price Waterhouse, which said the Price Waterhouse study results were biased because the respondents had no previous experience with a statewide smoking ban, so their impressions would not accurately reflect potential business loss.

The CRA immediately commissioned a review of the Price Waterhouse report by another accounting firm, Cooper and Lybrand, which said the Price Waterhouse study was biased because the respondents had no previous experience with a statewide smoking ban, so their impressions would not accurately reflect potential business loss.

The survey also biased its results by giving respondents misleading data regarding the scope of areas affected by AB 13. Coopers and Lybrand noted that Price Waterhouse omitted "a key conclusion, if not the key conclusion, that over 61% of respondents thought that there would be no impact or positive impact on sales from the proposed ban." This prompt response by the CRA neutralized the effects of the Price Waterhouse study.

AB 13 was granted reconsideration on 7 June and passed the Assembly 47 to 25. The tobacco industry had contributed $363,823 in campaign contributions between 1976 and 1993 to members who voted for AB 13 (average $7,774 per "yes" vote), and $711,461 to members who voted against it (average $28,456 per "no" vote). Friedman hailed his success as a "spectacular turnaround," and attributed the change in votes to "the outpouring of spontaneous public support for AB 13 all over the state, and the outrage expressed by the voters at the passage of the industry-sponsored measure." Several members of the Assembly expressed discontent with both AB 13 and AB 996, saying one bill was too strict and the other was not strict enough, and hoped a compromise bill could be created in the Senate, or in a conference committee.
enough votes to pass.90 91 (The legislation re-emerged in January of 1994 as the "Califor-nia Uniform Tobacco Control Act"92 or Propo-sition 188, an initiative sponsored by Philip Morris that qualified for California's November 1994 ballot; the voters defeated it, 71% "no" to 29% "yes"."")

AB 13 passed the Senate Health and Human Services Committee on its second hearing after being further amended to exempt portions of hotel and motel lobbies, bars and gaming clubs, and some convention centres and warehouses. Between the first and second commit-tee hearings, in response to a question from a reporter, Friedman argued that:

AB 13 creates one uniform protective statewide law and preempts the patchwork of local ordinances around the state with which businesses must currently comply. It protects all workers from environmental tobacco smoke and all employers from claims related to environmental tobacco smoke." [Emphasis added.]

Once again, these exemptions were created by excluding these venues from AB 13's definition of "places of employment". Since AB 13 only applied to places it defined as "places of employment," these exemptions from the smoke-free mandate were also exempted from the bill's preemption clause, leaving them open to local regulation. Friedman admittedly accepted the amendments to exempt these areas to move the bill through committee and declared the bill's passage to be a victory against the tobacco industry.93 In a bulletin to members, the League of California Cities reassuring cities that despite exemptions added to the bill, "AB 13 will also be amended to clarify that local governments will not be prevented from enacting stricter local ordinances for the areas excepted by AB 13."94 [Emphasis in original.]

The American Lung Association told its members, "These exemptions do not preempt local governments to keep or adopt stricter local smoking ordinances."95 [Emphasis in original.]

The AB 13 coalition continued to support the bill, despite the fact that it was no longer "100%," the rationale several members of the support coalition had initially used to justify accepting the preemption language.

THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

After passing the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, AB 13 was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee, chaired by Sena-tor Bill Lockyer (Democrat from Hayward). Lockyer had previously furthered tobacco industry interests by authoring California's tort reform law, the California Civil Liability Reform Act of 1987, which specifically exempted "inherently unsafe" products, such as tobacco, from state civil liability laws.97

Before AB 13's first hearing before the Judi-ciary Committee, Serena Chen, public affairs officer for the American Lung Association of Alameda County and Lockyer's district, criticised the Senator for his lack of public support for AB 13,98 in what she believed to be an off the record briefing with a reporter for the Fremont Argus.99 The newspaper ran her comments in a front page story. In response, Lockyer threatened AB 13 by withholding his vote.100 Friedman denounced Chen's comments as "slanderous",101 issued a press release defending Lockyer,102 and dropped the American Lung Association from the AB 13 support coalition.103 He also sent a letter to the editor of the Argus defending Lockyer and stating his belief that AB 13 would receive fair treatment from the Senator.104

The AB 13 support coalition distanced itself from the controversy and the American Lung Association. In an 18 August 1993 letter to Lockyer from top executives of the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, and the California Medical Association, the organisations "disavow[ed] any connection to the [ALA] comments," and informed Lockyer they had encouraged the American Lung Association to discipline "the responsible party" in that organisation.105 Friedman later admitted that his actions had been extreme, and expressed "the highest regard for [the ALA] and its statewide leadership."106 Friedman had mollified a committee chairman whose support was critical to AB 13's success. Despite the fact it was no longer a member of the AB 13 support coalition, the American Lung Association continued to work with Friedman to pass the bill. Lockyer thanked Friedman for the defence of his character and withdrew his nominal opposition to the bill but stated, "There appears to be some fine tuning that needs to be done."107

At AB 13's first hearing in the Judiciary committee, on 19 August 1993, it was clear AB 13 did not have the votes to get out of committee.108 Friedman again amended AB 13 to allow smoking in workplace break rooms provided that there was ventilation equipment providing 60 cubic feet per minute per smoker that exhausted air directly outside and that sufficient break rooms existed for non-smokers. The bill was also amended to state that Cal/OSHA would not be involved in enforcing the state law until an employer had been guilty of three violations within one year, as determined by the local enforcement agency.109 As violations of anti-smoking laws rarely reach three violations within a year, this amendment effectively precluded state level enforcement of the bill.110

Over the next several weeks, Lockyer proposed several amendments that would have weakened the bill's smoke-free mandate, including a request that Friedman relinquish his 100% smoke-free requirement in favour of ventilation standards. Friedman agreed to con-sider such standards.111 Had these proposed amendments been adopted, the bill would have been similar to AB 996. Lockyer also proposed exemptions for meeting and banquet rooms, all convention centres, bars in restaurants, preemption of all future local ordinances, increased exemptions for hotel rooms and lobbies, and a hardship exemption for businesses who could prove need. In addition, he developed a scheme that would have allowed smoking in workplace break rooms and restau-rants if they were in compliance by 1 January
1997 with as yet unwritten Cal/OSHA rules to protect non-smokers from environmental tobacco smoke.109

After conferring with his support coalition, Friedman answered Lockyer's proposal by expressing concern that the proposed ventilation standard did not specify that smoking would be prohibited should Cal/OSHA fail to develop a protective ventilation standard.109 Friedman also protested the proposed hardship exemption "since Cal/OSHA does not grant employers such exceptions for other occupational health or safety standards."109 Rather than accepting Lockyer's proposal, Friedman petitioned to turn AB 13 into a two year bill, allowing him to bring the bill back to committee for discussion in 1994. His request was granted and Friedman vowed to return in 1994 with a stronger support coalition for the bill.109

In February 1994, AB 13 was taken up again in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Friedman amended the bill to expand exemptions for hotels and motels to gain the support of the California Hotel and Motel Association, a previous opponent of AB 13. Friedman also adopted Lockyer's amendment to permit smoking in bars until 1 January 1997, after which the establishment would have to be in compliance with an as yet unwritten ventilation standard deemed acceptable for protecting workers from environmental tobacco smoke by the EPA or Cal/OSHA. However, unlike Lockyer's proposal, if no standard was written by 1 January 1997, smoking would be prohibited in bars and gaming clubs. Friedman's bill also required ventilation equipment in workplace break rooms that permitted smoking to meet the unwritten EPA or Cal/OSHA standards.110

AB 13 was heard again by the Senate Judiciary Committee on 22 March 1994. Two tobacco friendly amendments were added to the bill.111 The first, sponsored by Senator Art Torres (Democrat from Los Angeles), extended the phase in period and ventilation options for bars, gaming clubs, and convention centres to restaurants. Torres had historically supported tobacco control legislation and desired his amendment to work for AB 13 with or without his amendment,112 but was influenced by restaurateurs who complained their businesses would be threatened by proposed smoking restrictions.113 The amendment was accepted by the committee over objections of Friedman and the CRA, who claimed the cost of ventilation equipment would be prohibitive for small businesses.114

The second amendment, sponsored by Senator Charles Calderon (Democrat from Whittier), preempted all future ordinances. Calderon had a history of supporting similar preemption language.115 In proposing his preemption amendment to AB 13, Calderon argued that if Friedman truly wanted to establish a state standard for smoking control, he should extend the preemption in the bill to all local ordinances.115 Friedman objected that his fragile support coalition would disintegrate because many supporters were philosophically opposed to preemption.114 After adding these amendments, the Judiciary Committee passed the bill by 6 to 1.

Once AB 13 was amended to broadly preempt local laws, opposition to it solidified. The League of California Cities,116 the American Cancer Society,117 the American Lung Association,118 and the American Heart Association119 expressed opposition to the two pro-tobacco amendments and said they would oppose the bill until both amendments were removed. ANR continued to oppose the bill.

The weakening of AB 13 was front page news.120 The Los Angeles Times editorial page called the hearing "a rape in Sacramento."121 Friedman lobbied to remove the Torres and Calderon amendments from AB 13 in the Senate Appropriations Committee, the last committee before the Senate floor.122 Torres, realising he had been misled at the hearing by restaurant owners in his district, worked with Friedman's office to remove the amendment he had suggested as well as Calderon's preemption language.123 Friedman and his supporters successfully removed the hostile amendments in the Senate Appropriations committee. The AB 13 support coalition once again backed the bill, while ANR continued to oppose it.

**THE SENATE FLOOR**

After AB 13 passed the Senate Appropriations Committee, it was sent to the Senate floor. Senator Marian Bergeson (Republican from Newport Beach), AB 13's floor manager in the Senate, successfully fought off several hostile amendments. However, one amendment was accepted on 26 June 1994 on the Senate floor. Smoking areas would be allowed in long term patient care facilities, and in businesses with fewer than five employees, so long as all smoking areas were separated from the smoking area by the expenditure of directive resources.111 The bill passed the Senate on 30 June 1994. The Assembly voted concurrence in the Senate amendments.

Governor Wilson signed the bill into law on 21 July 1994 and it became effective on 1 January 1995. Restrictions on smoking in bars were scheduled to take effect on 1 January 1997. None of the legislature passed and the Governor signed a bill extending this deadline to January 1998.120

The final version of the bill retained 100% smoke-free mandate as well as preemption clause. Amendments were worded so that any exemption from the smoke-free mandate that allowed smoking was also an exemption from the preemption clause. All local entities would be allowed to enforce existing regulations and pass and enforce new regulations restricting smoking in areas exempt from AB 13, despite its preemption clauses. Nevertheless, Governor Wilson cited personal reason to sign the bill into law. He stated AB
protected the health of workers as well as California's businesses because:

by providing a uniform, statewide standard which preempts the patchwork of local ordinances around the state with which businesses must currently comply, the law does not give one business an economic advantage over another.16

The Governor adopted the position advanced by the business community through the CRA.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's analysis of AB 13 also concluded that it was preemptive,7 making California one of the 18 states in 1996 in which local clean indoor air legislation was preempted by state legislation.

Discussion

By bringing together business, labour, local government, and health organisations, Friedman and the AB 13 support coalition successfully transformed public sentiment against smoking into statewide legislation. The health agencies were able to disseminate information about the adverse health effects of environmental tobacco smoke, the CRA was able to lend credibility to the fact that state smoking restriction laws do not hurt restaurant business, and the League of California Cities lent support to arguments that the bill would not limit the power of local governments to pass stricter restrictions than those contained in the bill. The coalition also provided critical feedback to Friedman on areas of compromise such as ventilation standards, preemption, and exemptions of certain areas. Equally important, the coalition was able to prevent the tobacco industry from taking control of the bill and passing a blatantly pro-industry version under the guise of tobacco control.

However, a consensus among all of California's tobacco control advocates over acceptable compromises—in this case, preemption—was lacking. When the CRA first demanded preemption in any anti-smoking legislation they would support, advocates in Sacramento, (American Lung Association, American Heart Association, American Cancer Society) agreed among themselves that the preemption clause was an acceptable compromise for the proposed legislation, because of its 100% smoke-free mandate. They argued that localities could not pass ordinances that were stronger than 100% smoke-free, eliminating the need for local control over those areas. Their main goal was to extend a state law as far as possible to provide public protection from environmental tobacco smoke. Players outside Sacramento were not considered relevant. In response to the statement that there was a disagreement within the California tobacco control movement regarding the desirability of AB 13, the ACS's Sacramento Public Issues Office responded, “Organisations that are interested in tobacco control and have Sacramento based lobbying offices were in agreement, and worked together regarding AB 13.”168 Others outside state government disagreed. ANR and others argued that because the state law would automatically supersede any weaker local law, the preemption in the bill served no policy purpose and was an unnecessary risk. The AB 13 support coalition attempted to satisfy opponents to the bill from within the tobacco control community by adding a severability clause and wording exemptions so to allow some local regulation, but they did not consult with tobacco control allies outside Sacramento when making decisions to accept compromises in the bill.

ANR and other opponents of AB 13 within the tobacco control community also believed that the public debate over local ordinances proved to be an efficient community education tool that was crucial to effective implementation of new tobacco control laws, and such a debate would be lacking in the implementation of a state law.179 The crucial policy issue of whether state legislation was desirable at all was not debated during the formative stages of AB 13 (that is, when AB 2667 was proposed), probably because no one (on either side of the debate within the tobacco control community in California) thought the bill had a serious chance of passing. By the time AB 13 passed its first legislative committee, it was too late to create a consensus among tobacco control advocates over the broader policy issues raised by the bill.

ISSUES IN IMPLEMENTATION

The preemption compromise that Friedman and the AB 13 support coalition accepted may have been an important factor in the bill's passage, but ultimately the law must be analysed by the protection it affords California's workers from environmental tobacco smoke. Thus, while most of the debate regarding AB 13 centred on compromises regarding preemption and areas covered, compromises regarding enforcement were equally important. The evolution of AB 13's enforcement provisions (from designating Cal/OSHA, then local police, then turning responsibility for designating a local enforcement agency to local elected bodies) retained local involvement in tobacco control but did not provide guidelines for implementing the law, like those that have been included in contemporaneous local legislation.186 This ambiguity, combined with uncertainties about exemptions such as bars within restaurants, appears to have created confusion among restaurant owners about the law's meaning and impact on individual businesses.177 Moreover, the language added in the Senate Judiciary Committee, stating that the state agency, Cal/OSHA, is not required to become involved in enforcement until an employer is convicted by local authorities of three violations within a year, precluded any effective state enforcement.165 Indeed, after AB 13 passed, the American Cancer Society Sacramento Public Issues Office stated that “AB 13 did not contain state level

Early experiences with implementing AB 13 suggest that communities with strong local ordinances when AB 13 passed have generally been more successful in implementing AB 13
legislation dealing with issues surrounding tobacco and youth also slowed dramatically. (Most of these ordinances restricted or ended vending machine sales of cigarettes, others restricted tobacco advertising or dealt with youth access issues.) In 1994, the year before AB 13 went into force, 35 local ordinances dealing with youth issues were passed (either as stand alone ordinances or as part of comprehensive local tobacco control ordinances); in 1995 only eight such ordinances were passed (fig 2). In the first quarter of 1996, only one such ordinance was passed. One possible explanation for this is that while the great bulk of local legislative activity dealt with the creation of smoke-free environments, this legislative activity was spilling over into issues related to tobacco and children, particularly through the growing trend towards passage of comprehensive tobacco control ordinances, which included both clean indoor air and youth oriented components. According to Carol Russell, the Chief of Program Services in the Tobacco Control Section at the California Department of Health Services, and the official responsible for implementing community-based programmes under Proposition 99:

Another [negative] fallout [from the AB 13 "process"] was that the passage of local public policies around youth and tobacco also slowed. We are attempting to give new life to this program direction, but it's difficult. The STAKE Act [a state law] sequentially enacted, dealt with enforcement of illegal sales of tobacco to underage youth. This legislation is unlikely to account for the fall off of local policies since youth access is only one part of broader issues, eg, counterpro-tobacco in the community—ones of our three program priorities. While everyone is impacted by secondhand smoke, the adult non-smokers in California may not see youth access as their issue, at least one in which they are willing to devote lots of time and energy as they did with environmental tobacco smoke.

The STAKE Act, which only dealt with state level enforcement issues related to youth access, included specific anti-preemption language designed to protect the rights of communities to enact local youth oriented ordinances. The adverse effect on local tobacco control activities dealing with children associated with AB 13 was not anticipated by any parties in the AB 13 debate.

The introduction of AB 13 led to contentious debate within California's tobacco control community. The resulting damage to working relationships within the tobacco control community was detrimental to other common tobacco control goals. For example, the fight over AB 13, both between tobacco control advocates and against tobacco industry allies who tried to hijack the bill, took attention away from another high priority: protect Proposition 99 health education and research money from the governor and the California Medical Association, who would prefer to spend it on medical services. The legislation authorising expenditure of Proposition 99 funds expired on 30 June 1994, at the height of the AB 13 debate. AB 13 dominated the tobacco control agenda in California, both in terms of resources of the health group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Comprehensive</th>
<th>Clean indoor air</th>
<th>Youth-oriented</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>1990</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>1996</td>
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</table>

Figure 2 AB 13 was associated with a dramatic reduction in the passage of local tobacco control ordinances in California, not just in the area of workplace smoking restrictions (which was preemted by AB 13) but also other aspects of clean indoor air, and surprisingly ordinances dealing with advertising and sales of tobacco to children. It appears that efforts to enact clean indoor air ordinances helped create constituencies and coalitions that expanded their focus to include youth oriented issues in comprehensive tobacco control ordinances. Passage of AB 13 was associated with an end to this process. Ordinances passed or strengthened during this period were counted. Comprehensive ordinances indicate that clean indoor air and youth oriented provisions were enacted in the same year, generally within the same ordinance. Eight jurisdictions passed two, sequentially stronger, local clean indoor air ordinances during 1990 to 1995; both ordinances were counted in the years they were enacted. This graph does not count nine local ordinances (one in 1994 and eight in 1995) that simply designated a local enforcement agency or otherwise implemented AB 13. The repeal of stronger ordinances by Santa Monica and Santa Clara are counted as ~2 in 1995. (Source: Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights local ordinance database.)
also attention by the press and public. In fact, AB 13 was presented as an alternative to full funding of the Proposition 99 anti-tobacco education and research programmes. For example, the Los Angeles Times editorial stated: "The continuing diversion of [Proposition 99 Health Education Account] funds is regrettable, if seemingly unavoidable, but the gains against cigarette smoking ... need not be lost. The best strategy, in our opinion, is passage of AB 13, which would make smoking illegal in most workplaces throughout the state." Perhaps reflecting the fact that AB 13 had displaced Proposition 99 as the central tobacco issue in California at the time, Friedman did not vote for full funding of Proposition 99 anti-tobacco education and research programmes when the issue came before the legislature. It is also noteworthy that the tobacco industry did not mount a major campaign against AB 13. While it did provide some testimony against the bill, including the usual claims of adverse economic consequences, it did not mobilise its smokers' rights groups in a major effort to stop the bill, as it did in other places, such as New York City.

CONCLUSION
Perhaps AB 13's most important legacy may be its effect on national attitudes towards the issue of preemption in state tobacco control legislation. During the debate over AB 13, opponents of preemption pointed out that state affiliates of the national voluntary health organisations were violating established national policy. However, after the introduction of AB 13, the national policy was amended to include:

Only in those extremely rare instances when we can achieve 100 percent of our goals in a piece of legislation, such as a complete ban on smoking in the workplace and public places, can preemption even be considered. Because preemption now exists in a state anti-smoking law that is perceived as strong, in future tobacco control debates it may be harder to argue that preemption is bad because it has been a successful tool of the tobacco industry to thwart tobacco control goals. The issue has become less black and white. This ambiguity may stem from the fact that AB 13's policies on preemption and the value of state-local ordinances did not arise from a formal proactive debate on these topics within the broad tobacco control community of California, but rather evolved under the pressure of events.

Because of the lack of state implementation and clear local enforcement guidelines, AB 13 has not created a statewide uniform standard for workplace smoking policies. Indeed, the provisions of AB 13 which granted local government the authority to enforce the law represent an ironic outcome of the debate over preemption. The CRA's original motivation for insisting on preemption—and the Governor's reason for signing the bill—was to create a "level playing field" in which there was a uniform state standard for regulating smoking in workplaces. The only effective enforcement is at the local level and is left to local discretion, yielding a "patchwork" of local enforcement.

It is important to note that this outcome occurred in California, a state with a strong tobacco control coalition, one experienced in state political battles by Proposition 99, and a constituency that is well educated about the health hazards of public tobacco use. Given the fact that compromises are part and parcel of the process of enacting state legislation on almost any topic, the supporters of AB 13 can justifiably claim that they obtained the strongest possible state law that mandates protection for almost all workers in California from secondhand smoke. Even so, the question of whether AB 13 effectively advanced the tobacco control agenda in California remains controversial nearly two years after AB 13 was passed. California's experience suggests that the anticipated outcomes for state tobacco control legislation modelled after AB 13 may be even more problematic in states without the strong pro-tobacco control environment that exists in California. In other states that lack a dedicated and effective advocate in the legislature like Friedman, where the state voluntary health agencies are not as strong, or where there is little organised grass roots support for tobacco control activities, it is possible that introduction of a bill as ambiguous as AB 13 will provide the tobacco industry with opportunities to pass weak preemptive state laws.

Because its supporters initially doubted that AB 13 would pass, there was never an effort to reconcile the differences between state oriented and locally oriented tobacco control policies. This lack of consensus, combined with the political realities inherent in passing any state legislation, led to a bill with ambiguous preemption language and replaced the "patchwork of local laws" with a "patchwork of local enforcement." The history of AB 13 suggests that tobacco control advocates at all levels in other states need to reach a clear consensus on the question of preemption before the issue arises in the legislature, and they should not simply leave this important policy question to the vagaries of legislative deal making.

This work was supported by National Cancer Institute grant CA-61021 and a grant from the University of California Tobacco-Related Diseases Research Program (1RT520).
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<th>Community</th>
<th>Preemption</th>
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<th>Public places</th>
<th>Enforcement</th>
<th>Public education</th>
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<td>Preemption of local ordinances regulating smoking in places of employment</td>
<td>Preemption of local ordinances regulating workplace smoking; exempt areas are subject to local control; if the smoke-free mandate is tampered with in the future, localities retain the right to enact and enforce smoking regulations</td>
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<td>Cal/OSHA is the sole agency permitted to enforce smoking regulations; Sheriff's office is the sole agency permitted to enforce youth access regulations</td>
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### Tobacco taxes

- Tobacco samples: Not addressed
- Vending machines: Not addressed

### Medical realities of statewide smoking legislation

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<td>No Smoking signs required at workplace entrances</td>
<td>Signs required marking smoking and nonsmoking areas</td>
<td>Signs required marking smoking from non-smoking areas, and outlining law against tobacco sales to minors</td>
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<td>No Smoking signs required in non-smoking areas</td>
<td>No Smoking signs required conspicuously displayed in non-smoking areas</td>
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### Referenced laws

Political realities of statewide smoking legislation: the passage of California's Assembly Bill 13
Heather R Macdonald and Stanton A Glantz

*Tob Control* 1997 6: 41-54
doi: 10.1136/tc.6.1.41

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