

The logo features the text "Philadelphians" in a white, sans-serif font, with "for a" in a smaller, white, cursive font below it, and "FAIR FUTURE" in a large, white, bold, sans-serif font to the right.

Philadelphians
for a **FAIR FUTURE**

LEADING SCIENTISTS AND DOCTORS URGE CITY COUNCIL TO ADOPT THE SUGARY DRINKS TAX

Philadelphia, June 3, 2016 – Nearly two dozen of the nation’s leading physicians and research scientists today sent a joint letter urging members of City Council to adopt the Sugary Drinks tax as the best way to promote the health and education of Philadelphia’s children.

“There is nothing more important to the future of this nation than our children,” said the letter, signed by 22 health research scientists and physicians from the nation’s most prestigious medical and research institutions. “And there is nothing more critical to the future of our children than their health and education.”

The signers include some of the most highly-renowned physicians, nutritionists, and public health researchers in the United States – experts from Harvard, Yale, Penn, NYU, the University of Washington, Johns Hopkins, Duke, the Cleveland Wellness Clinic, the University of Minnesota, the American College of Physicians, and the Center for Science in the Public Interest (a member of the Philadelphians for a Fair Future coalition).

Noting that “Type 2 diabetes has reached epidemic levels, including more than one in five African American adults, in Philadelphia today,” the letter identifies sugary drinks as “the biggest single source of added sugars in the average American’s diet.”

“By adopting the proposed tax on sugar drinks,” the experts said, “Philadelphia has a singular opportunity to both turn the tide on the diabetes epidemic and ensure a bright future for the city’s children. The tax would not only fund universal pre-K education, but also help prevent type 2 diabetes, saving hundreds of lives and millions of dollars in health costs in Philadelphia every year.”

The experts also rejected alternatives to pay for programs to benefit children’s health and education. “None of the recently proposed alternatives to the ‘soda tax’ would achieve those critical needs,” they said. “The beverage container tax is a particularly bad idea, because it could lead to a decreased consumption of bottled water.”

The letter can be found here: <http://goo.gl/Vg5aZQ>

About PFF

Philadelphians for a Fair Future represents a coalition of 81 organizations and thousands of people from all walks of life in Philadelphia, including: Public Citizens for Children and Youth; the Philadelphia Parks Alliance; the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers; Education Voters of Pennsylvania; the Service Employees International Union; Center for Popular Democracy; the Alliance of Community Service Providers; the Delaware Valley Association for the Education of Young Children; Men United for a Better Philadelphia; Ceiba; Action United; Aspira; the Center for Science in the Public Interest; Lodge 5 of the FOP; Local 22, IAFF; District Councils 33 and 47, AFSCME; Youth United for Change; and multiple community development corporations and small business owners from throughout the city.

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