

**To: President Toni Preckwinkle (Cook County Board of Commissioners)**

**Commissioner John Daley (My Cook County Commissioner)**

**The Cook County Board of Commissioners**

**From: Tawanda Johnson-Gray**

**Date: September 13, 2017**

**Re: Repeal of Cook County Sugary Beverage Tax**

Good Morning Honorable Members of the Cook County Board of Commission:

As a resident of Cook County and a 6-Time Stroke Survivor, and a SUPPORTER OF THE COOK COUNTY SUGARY BEVERAGE TAX, I write this memo, with a high level of concern of the conversation that is taking place today in the Cook County Board of Commissioners Chambers. Unable to physically attend this meeting today, I was compelled to write this letter, in response to the desire of some Cook County Commissioners who are in favor of repealing this tax.

I strongly urge those who are feeling that they need to push back on this tax to look at ALL OF THE GOOD THAT THIS TAX CAN DO! We can change the trajectory of Heart Disease, Stroke, Diabetes, and Cancer by keeping this tax intact! The consumption and easy access to sugary beverages is literally making the human family sick. Those in the poverty stricken areas of Cook County are at higher risks of sugary beverage targeting, and on top of that, live in food deserts. They are not given balance in the selection of drinking beverages that are good for them. We need balance in Cook County. This tax needs to remain intact. The Sugary Beverage Tax eases the financial burden to the very agencies in Cook County that care for those who become sick from unhealthy eating practices, such as high sugary beverage intake.

Some issues should not be turned into political opportunities. Science is not political. Food is science. Our intake of food and beverages, programs our brains, and our brains tell our bodies what to do. If we continue to feed our body beverages that tell our bodies to manifest disease, this is self-inflicted disease. This is a FAIR TAX, as only those who indulge are forced to pay the tax. Repealing the tax is not fair to those of us who are very deliberate in taking care of our bodies. We should not have to carry the burden of others who make deliberate choices to intake beverages that cause illness. Repealing this tax will make these beverages easily accessible to children and young teens, whose bodies are developing. Let's protect our children!!!!

Keeping the Sugary Beverage Tax intact is a 'CALL TO CONSCIOUSNESS'! Let your conscious rest knowing that you did the right thing, by being on the right side of 'HISTORY'. Thank you for your consideration!

Respectfully,

Tawanda Johnson-Gray

