

Letters: Make smoke-free housing a priority

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Second-hand smoke is a big problem in my apartment. My friends smoke and it seeps into my apartment from theirs. This has a negative impact on my asthma even when they are smoking in their own apartment. When the smoke comes into my apartment my asthma flares up and it has even given me an asthma attack. When I got the asthma attack I had to go to the emergency. I had to spend four hours at the emergency room. The doctor who treated me told me that my asthma attack was triggered by second-hand smoke. Since the asthma attack, I have to be careful now; most times I avoid my apartment because the smoke is a trigger for me.

Living in my apartment is the only option for me right now because I am a student at Chico State University and I cannot afford another apartment. Incorporating more smoke-free housing in Chico would help people like me with asthma or other health problems worsened by tobacco smoke.

As the population of Chico continues to increase, so will the amount of housing needed to accommodate the jump in population and the number of renters in Chico. To address the population increase and protect those affected by second-hand smoke, the 2030 General Plan should include measures to accommodate more smoke-free housing so that people with asthma, like me, and other conditions that can be worsened or caused by second-hand smoke in Chico.

— Alicia Gifford, Chico

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