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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday, April 19, 2024  
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## Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein Statement as Franklin County Judge Issues Order Temporarily Blocking State Ban on Local Tobacco Regulations

*Says decision is a good first step to keeping effective local strategies in place to curb tobacco usage, especially among teens*

**COLUMBUS, OH**— Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today issued a statement as a Franklin County judge sided with Columbus and 13 other Ohio cities who challenged a state law that would strip away the rights of cities to regulate the sale of tobacco products at the local level.

The temporary restraining order handed down Friday blocks the law from going into effect until a preliminary injunction hearing on May 17. With this decision, Columbus' local tobacco regulations, including licensure for local tobacco retailers and the city's ban on the sale of flavored tobacco products, remain in effect.

Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein's quote is below:

**“I applaud the Court’s decision siding with cities and look forward to making our case to show this law is not only unconstitutional, but also just bad policy that harms public health and undermines the progress we’ve made to curb tobacco usage, especially among teens,”** said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein.