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OPINION

America the smoke free

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As a former smoker, I understand firsthand the power of tobacco addiction and how difficult it is to quit.

Fortunately, evidence of the dangers of cigarettes and second-hand smoke, successful public health campaigns and an emphasis on making children aware of the medical, physical and financial harm that cigarettes cause has led to a drastic decrease in smoking and tobacco sales across the country over the past decade.

During my time as state Representative, the Illinois General Assembly has worked diligently to curb cigarette usage and protect the safety and welfare of smokers and non-smokers alike. This January was the sixth anniversary of the Smoke-free Illinois Act, which ensures that public buildings, businesses, restaurants, workplaces, and government buildings are kept smoke free and healthy.

CVS' decision to no longer sell tobacco products in their stores is commendable. This forward-thinking action is a strong message that reinvigorates their mission of "helping people on their path to better health." By focusing first on healthcare and wellness rather than on the short-term goals of their shareholders, CVS is a leading example of corporate responsibility.

This is a tremendous step in the right direction, and I hope other companies follow suit.

— State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz, D-Chicago