

NORTH  DAKOTA
Public Health Association

PO Box 7282 ♦ Bismarck, ND ♦ 58507-7282

Resolution to Raise North Dakota's Tobacco Tax

WHEREAS, according to the 2014 US Surgeon General's Report, increasing tobacco excise taxes have proven highly effective in preventing initiation among youth, reducing tobacco use by promoting cessation among current users, discouraging relapse among former users, and reducing consumption among those who continue to use tobaccoⁱ; and

WHEREAS, tobacco use remains North Dakota's leading preventable cause of death, killing more people than alcohol, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, murders, and suicides combinedⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, 11.7% of youth in North Dakota smokeⁱⁱⁱ, and 300 North Dakota children (under 18) become new daily smokers each yearⁱⁱⁱ, of whom more than 14,000 will die prematurely because of this addictionⁱⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, 22.3% of youth in North Dakota use electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS)^{iv}, otherwise known as e-cigarettes, of whom many will develop a lifelong addiction to nicotine/tobacco products, resulting in the health costs related to such; and

WHEREAS, ENDS have little to no regulation around content, flavorings, and marketing appealing to youth, and stealth-use products and tactics advertised to youth; and

WHEREAS, ENDS are not currently classified as tobacco products in North Dakota even though they deliver nicotine in the same way for the same purpose as other tobacco products; and

WHEREAS, ENDS are not currently approved by the FDA as a cessation device, and

WHEREAS, 19.8% (115,100) of adults in North Dakota smokeⁱⁱⁱ and nearly 1,000 North Dakotansⁱⁱⁱ will die each year from smoking and smoking-related disease, including 27% of cancer deaths in ND that are attributed to tobacco use^v; and

WHEREAS, tobacco use in North Dakota imposes economic burden, with smoking-caused direct healthcare costs amounting to \$326 million each yearⁱⁱⁱ, smoking-caused productivity losses approximating \$232.6 million annually^{vi}, and each household paying \$768 per year in state and federal taxes from smoking-caused government expenditures^{vi}, and

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WHEREAS, each year, the North Dakota government Medicaid payments directly related to tobacco use are \$56.9 million^{vi}; and

WHEREAS, the current cigarette tax of \$0.44 per packⁱⁱⁱ, pipe tobacco and cigar tax at 28% of the wholesale purchase price^{vii}, and snuff tax at \$0.60 per ounce^{vii}, ranking North Dakota one of the four least expensive tobacco states in the nationⁱⁱⁱ is dangerous to our state's citizens; and

WHEREAS, the legislative body in North Dakota has not enacted legislation to increase our state's tobacco taxes since 1993; and defeated legislation as recently as 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Tobacco Industry spends \$38.2 million each year marketing in ND^{vi}; and

WHEREAS, this resolution addresses commercial tobacco, which is different from traditional tobacco used in American Indian spiritual and ceremonial practices;

THEREFORE be it resolved, the NDPHA endorses raising North Dakota's cigarette tax to \$1.94 per pack and all other tobacco products by a proportional amount, and to include classifying ENDS as tobacco products so they are taxed as such.

References:

[i] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2014). *The health consequences of smoking – 50 years of progress. A report of the Surgeon General*. Retrieved from <https://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/50-years-of-progress/50-years-of-progress-by-section.html>

[ii] Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. (2018, June 8). *The toll of tobacco in the United States*. Retrieved from <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us>

[iii] Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. (2018, June 7). *Key State-Specific Tobacco Data and Rankings*. Retrieved from <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/assets/factsheets/0176.pdf>

[iv] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). *High School Youth Behavior Risk Survey North Dakota 2015 and United States 2015 Results*. Retrieved from <https://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/App/Results.aspx?TT=G&OUT=0&SID=HS&QID=QQ&LID=ND&YID=2015&LID2=XX&YID2=2015&COL=&ROW1=&ROW2=&HT=QQ&LCT=&FS=S1&FR=R1&FG=G1&FSL=&FRL=&FGL=&PV=&C1=ND2015&C2=XX2015&QP=G&DP=1&VA=CI&CS=N&SYID=&EYID=&SC=DEFAULT&SO=ASC&pf=1&TST=True>

[v] National Cancer Institute. (2007, August 17). *President's Cancer Panel's 2006 - 2007 report. Promoting healthy lifestyles: Policy, program, and personal recommendations for reducing cancer risk*. Retrieved from <http://archive.tobacco.org/news/251230.html>

[vi] Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. (2018, April 10). *The toll of tobacco in North Dakota*. Retrieved from https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/north_dakota

[vii] ND Office of the State Tax Commissioner. (n.d.). *Cigarette and tobacco tax*. Retrieved from <https://www.nd.gov/tax/tobacco>