

Res. 10-02; Updated from Res. 07-01

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT A TOBACCO TAX INCREASE IN THE STATE OF IDAHO

WHEREAS, cigarette smoking **remains** the leading cause of preventable disease and death in the United States and in Idaho. Annually 1,500 Idahoans die from smoking-attributable deaths (1), (2); and

WHEREAS, **1,200** Idaho youth will become new smokers each year and 24,000 Idaho youth that are alive today will die from smoking (3,4); and

WHEREAS, Idaho's cigarette tax ranks **42nd** in the nation (57 cents/pack), is lower than all of the surrounding states, and is substantially lower than the average cigarette tax per pack in non-tobacco producing states at **\$1.57** per pack (5); and

WHEREAS, Idaho spends 319 million in smoking-attributable medical costs and 333 million in smoking-attributable lost productivity costs annually (2); and

WHEREAS, numerous economic studies in peer-reviewed journals have documented that cigarette tax or price increases reduce both adult and youth smoking (6), and

WHEREAS, every state that has significantly raised its cigarette tax has enjoyed substantial increases to state revenues despite the fact that cigarette tax increases reduce state smoking levels (7), and

WHEREAS, state funding levels for comprehensive tobacco prevention and control programs are sorely inadequate to support effective and sustained tobacco control efforts (2):

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho Association of Boards of Health supports an increase in the tobacco tax **of at least \$1.25 per pack and equivalent for other tobacco products** to enhance comprehensive tobacco prevention and control efforts to reduce youth and adult tobacco use rates and decrease the tax burden derived from tobacco-attributable expenditures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this commitment with IAB will include funding the Idaho Association of Counties for the purpose of lobbying on this effort.

1 – U.S. Department of Health and Human Service. *How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease: The Biology and Behavioral Basis for Smoking-Attributable Disease: A Report of the Surgeon General*, Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2010

2 – U. S. Department of Health and Human Services and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Sustaining State Programs for Tobacco Control, Data Highlights 2006*.

3 – *Youth Risk Behavior Survey. 2009*.

4 - Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. *Key State-Specific Tobacco Related Data and Rankings*. January 9, 2007. www.tobaccofreekids.org

5 - Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. *State Cigarette Excise Tax Rates and Rankings*. August 3, 2010. www.tobaccofreekids.org

6 - Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. *Raising Cigarette Taxes Reduces Smoking, Especially Among Kids*. November 10, 2009. www.tobaccofreekids.org

7 - Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. *Tobacco Tax Increases are a Reliable Source of Substantial New State Revenue*. December 19, 2008. www.tobaccofreekids.org

Original: Approved June 2007