



Why Support a Tobacco Tax Increase in Maryland?

Evidence clearly shows that raising tobacco tax rates encourages tobacco users to quit or cut down and prevents kids from ever starting to smoke. By increasing taxes on cigarettes, cigars, smokeless tobacco and other tobacco products, our state can:

1. save lives,
2. reduce health care costs, and
3. generate much-needed revenue to help fund the state's tobacco control programs and Medicaid.

The Problem:

- 108, 000 kids (under 18 years old) alive today will die prematurely due to tobacco use.
- 15.2 % of Maryland adults report being tobacco users.
- The health and reduced productivity costs attributed to smoking are \$10.28 per pack of cigarettes.
- During the 2010 Maryland General Assembly Session, funding for the state's tobacco control program was cut from \$21 million to \$6 million dollars per year, increasing to 10 million in the out years. \$53 million below the CDC recommended amount.
- Maryland's budget shortfall threatens reduction in Medicaid coverage for low-income adults residing in Maryland.
- Childless adults living in poverty do not have access to Medicaid.

The Facts

- The current state cigarette tax in Maryland is \$2.00. The last cigarette tax increase in 2007 raised the tax by a \$1.00 and created \$127 million in revenue for the state.
- The current state tax on non cigarette tobacco products is 15% of wholesale. The last non cigarette tobacco tax increase occurred in 1999.
- For every 10 percent increase in the price of a pack of cigarettes, youth smoking rates drop by 7 percent and overall consumption declines by 4 percent.
- Taxes based on the percentage of wholesale price of non-cigarette tobacco products provide more health and economic benefits than weight-based taxes because they grow with inflation and ensure that low-weight products are consistently taxed at a significant enough rate to discourage youth uptake.
- To reduce tobacco use in Maryland, the Centers for Disease and Cancer Control and Prevention recommend funding tobacco control programs at \$63.3 per year.
- By more than a two-to-one margin (59% to 28%), Maryland voters favor using revenue from tobacco taxes and the tobacco settlement to restore funding for the state's cancer and tobacco control program to prevent youth from starting tobacco use and help tobacco users quit.

The Solution

The Maryland General Assembly should pass a \$1.00 per cigarette pack tax and increase the tax on other tobacco products to help fund the state's tobacco control programs and Medicaid in Maryland.

Take Action today! Please contact your state lawmakers and urge them to support legislation that would raise the cigarette tax \$1.00 and increase tax on other tobacco products to help fund tobacco control programs and Medicaid in our state.

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