

Session Summary

Tobacco-Use Prevention Policy Priorities:

- **Protect public health by eliminating exposure to secondhand smoke:**
 - Advocate for legislation to make all NC worksites and public places 100% smoke-free, in combination with;
 - Advocate for legislation that restores local control so local communities can pass ordinances to protect the public from exposure to secondhand smoke.

Outcome: HB 2, making all restaurants and bars smoke-free on Jan. 2, 2010, was signed by the Governor on May 19. Efforts to keep HB 2 strong and to expand smoke-free policies to all NC worksites will be a continued focus for the Alliance Tobacco Policy Committee for next session.

- **Support an increase in North Carolina's cigarette excise tax BY at least \$1.00 and support an excise tax increase on other tobacco (non-cigarette) products to the national average.**

Outcome: The final budget included a small cigarette tax increase of 10 cents per pack. However, the state is expected to face another large deficit in 2010. Expect significant discussion in the Alliance Tobacco Policy Committee about the cigarette tax as a priority for next session.

- **Promote Funding for Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Programs:** Strategically protect existing and secure new public funding and state appropriations, including Master Settlement Agreement Funds, that support effective (and evidence-based) tobacco use prevention and cessation programs and other public health initiatives and evaluation targeted at reducing the impact of tobacco use on health and the disparities that exist related to tobacco use prevention.

Outcome: Due to the budget shortfall, the Tobacco Quitline lost all state funding (\$500,000). However, the Health and Wellness Trust Fund (HWTF) has committed to continue funding as far as they are able given budget circumstances. Both the HWTF and Tobacco Trust Fund lost \$5,000,000 each in transfers to the General Fund to help offset the budget shortfall.

Obesity Prevention Policy Priorities:

- **Promote physical activity and education among youth in schools:**
 - Establish statewide "quality" physical education guidelines in NC's Basic Education Program;
 - Mandate and appropriately fund minimum requirements of minutes per week for all students grades K- 12, based on recommendations from the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE). Appropriate instruction periods include 150 minutes weekly physical education instruction in elementary schools, 225 minutes weekly "healthful living" instruction in middle schools, and 2 units of "healthful living" (1 semester of health, 3 semesters of PE) as a graduation requirement for high school.

Outcome: HB 1373 was introduced by Rep. Rick Glazier but saw no action due to the budget shortfall. The issue of physical education and physical activity in schools is listed in the study bill as a topic for consideration by the newly authorized Legislative Task Force on Childhood Obesity.

- **Promote the ability of local communities to support routine physical activity and healthy eating through built environment supports**, including multi-modal transportation infrastructure (eg. mass transit, sidewalks, bike lanes), recreation opportunities (eg. parks, trails greenways), and food venues (eg. grocery stores, farmers' markets, community gardens).

Outcome: HB 148, the Intermodal Transportation Funding Bill, passed both the House and Senate and has been signed by the Governor.

- **Implement and fully fund Child Nutrition Standards for grades K – 5.**

Outcome: The child nutrition appropriations bills (HB 387/SB273) as well as HB 1371 and HB 1372 saw no action this legislative session, primarily due to the budget deficit. Nutrition standards in schools is listed in the study bill as a topic for consideration by the newly authorized Legislative Task Force on Childhood Obesity.

- **Promote Funding for Obesity Prevention Research and Programs:** Strategically protect existing and secure new public funding and state appropriations that support effective (and evidence-based) obesity prevention programs and other public health initiatives and evaluation targeted at reducing the impact of obesity and the disparities that exist related to obesity prevention.

Outcome: Funding for the Community Obesity Prevention Demonstration Projects (COPDP), included as part of SB 240 and HB 774, was not funded this year due to the budget deficit.

Bills resulting from the 2008-09 Childhood Obesity Task Force that saw movement:

HB 1471 (Yongue) Counties and Schools Share PE Equipment

Passed the House; Passed the Senate on July 9. Signed by the Governor July 24, 2009.

HB 900 (Insko) Nutrition Standards/All Foods Sold at School

Passed the House; Assigned Senate Education/Higher Education.

HB 901 (Insko) Honors Courses in Healthful Living Classes

Passed the House; Assigned Senate Education/Higher Education.