



Resolution in Support of an Increase in NC's Cigarette Tax by at Least \$1.00

February 2011

WHEREAS, the use of tobacco products is the leading cause of preventable death and disability in North Carolina¹; and

WHEREAS, Nearly 10,400 NC children will become regular daily smokers this year²; and

WHEREAS, the best way to prevent and reduce tobacco use by children is to substantially increase the cost of cigarettes³; and

WHEREAS, a cigarette tax increase of \$1.00 would result in a 15.4% decrease in youth smoking rates, prevent 81,200 NC children from becoming addicted adult smokers and saving 39,100 young people from premature smoking-related deaths⁴; and

WHEREAS, NC's cigarette tax is currently 45-cents, the 7th lowest in the nation, and the current average cigarette tax among all states is \$1.45; and

WHEREAS, in contrast to NC's low cigarette tax is the fact that for every pack sold in NC, it costs North Carolina taxpayers \$7.17 per pack in health care costs to treat the serious chronic diseases brought on by cigarette smoking; and

WHEREAS, the use of tobacco products costs the State \$2.46 billion in direct healthcare costs (\$769 million in Medicaid expenses alone), and \$3.3 billion in lost productivity annually⁴; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina faces another significant budget deficit for the FY2012-13 budget; and

WHEREAS, these deficits risk cuts to important programs affecting the health and wellbeing of North Carolinians and more reductions may be threatened; and

WHEREAS, an increase in the cigarette tax of \$1.00 would generate an estimated \$338.4 million in new revenue in the first year⁴.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the cigarette tax in North Carolina be increased by at least \$1.00 a pack.

I am signing as:

___ an individual:

Individual Signature _____ Date: _____

___ on behalf of my organization:

Signature of Authorized Representative: _____ Date: _____

Printed Contact Name: _____

Organization Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____
(Individual Home Address OR Organization Business Address)

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ E-mail: _____

Mail Signed Resolutions to:

NC Alliance for Health; 3131 RDU Center, Suite 100, Morrisville, NC 27560
Telephone: 919-463-8328 / ncalliance@heart.org / www.ncallianceforhealth.org

¹ North Carolina Institute of Medicine, Task Force on Prevention, May 2008

² "The Toll of Tobacco in NC," Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids: <http://tobaccofreekids.org/reports/settlements/toll.php?StateID=NC>

³ D Hopkins & J Fielding: The Guide to Community Preventive Services: Tobacco Use Prevention & Control. Am. Journal of Preventive Medicine; 20:2S

⁴ "New Revenues, Public Health Benefits & Cost Savings From A \$1.00 Cigarette Tax Increase In North Carolina" Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. [http://www.ncallianceforhealth.org/Media/Tobacco/Excise%20Tax/NC%20Tax%20Hike%20Benefits%20\(\\$1\)%2012-07-10.pdf](http://www.ncallianceforhealth.org/Media/Tobacco/Excise%20Tax/NC%20Tax%20Hike%20Benefits%20($1)%2012-07-10.pdf)