



## Connecticut Faith Community Resolution

- WHEREAS, every year over 8,300 Connecticut children become addicted to tobacco and 72,700 Connecticut kids alive today will die prematurely because of this addiction; and
- WHEREAS, the Connecticut Legislature and Governor Rowland passed landmark legislation in 2003 to ban smoking in public places including restaurants, bars and workplaces to protect the public health of Connecticut residents; and
- WHEREAS, Connecticut settled its lawsuit with major tobacco companies in order to reduce the toll of tobacco in Connecticut, and the Master Settlement Agreement states that it “will achieve for the Settling States and their citizens significant funding for the advancement of public health and the implementation of important tobacco-related public health measures”; and
- WHEREAS, Connecticut currently receives more than \$300 million each year in tobacco settlement payments from the cigarette companies and in tobacco excise tax payments and *nearly zero dollars* are spent on tobacco prevention and cessation programs; and
- WHEREAS, healthcare costs in Connecticut caused by tobacco use total more than \$1.5 billion each year.
- WHEREAS, faith organizations minister to both the body and soul of Connecticut residents and have an essential interest in promoting healthy lifestyles and reducing the toll of tobacco and secondhand smoke, particularly among the disadvantaged who are disproportionately targeted by the tobacco industry.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the undersigned faith organization:

- Supports effective comprehensive measures to prevent and reduce tobacco use and tobacco harms in the State of Connecticut, including the vigorous enforcement of Connecticut’s statewide ban on smoking in restaurants, bars and workplaces without any weakening changes; and
- Endorses the immediate restoration of sufficient state funding to tobacco prevention and cessation programs to reduce youth and adult tobacco use and improve the health of smokers, particularly in low income and minority communities, and to keep the promise of the Master Settlement Agreement.
- Urges all persons and organizations concerned with improving the health and wellbeing of the state’s residents – especially those who are poor, disadvantaged, or young -- to support more aggressive statewide efforts to prevent and reduce tobacco use and its harms.

Signed on \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Members (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person’s email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

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