

New Hampshire Healthy Families Campaign

Resolution to Reduce Youth Smoking and Improve the Health of New Hampshire Citizens



WHEREAS, Every year, 3,600 New Hampshire children become addicted to tobacco and more than one-third of them will die prematurely because of this addiction; and

WHEREAS, rates of smoking among pregnant women in New Hampshire are above national averages and result in 2,130 births annually that are harmed by tobacco use; and

WHEREAS, while New Hampshire has the 7th-highest median income in the nation, 96,000 residents are uninsured; 25,000 of those uninsured are children; and

WHEREAS, the uninsured are three times more likely to die in the hospital and uninsured adolescents between the ages of 10 and 18 are four times more likely to have unmet health needs; and

WHEREAS, increasing New Hampshire's cigarette tax by \$1.00 would reduce the number of youth that smoke by 18.3 percent and significantly reduce the amount of pregnant women who smoke, would save \$274 million in long-term health care costs, and would provide nearly \$150 million in additional state revenues every year to cover rising health care costs; and

WHEREAS, New Hampshire has one of the lowest tobacco taxes in New England; and

WHEREAS, reduced state budget revenues threaten established programs to provide health insurance and services for the most vulnerable New Hampshire citizens and provide no opportunity for expansion of programs and services.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the undersigned organization endorses:

- Increasing the New Hampshire cigarette tax by \$1 per pack with a proportionate increase on other tobacco products; and
- Using the money raised by this increase in the tobacco tax to: (1) fund a comprehensive tobacco prevention and control program in New Hampshire at the level recommended by the Centers for Disease Control best practice guidelines; and (2) fund state programs that will expand access to health care for New Hampshire citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the undersigned organization will:

- Inform its members and, if possible, the general public of its endorsement of this Resolution; and
- Inform the Governor and members of the Legislature of its endorsement of this Resolution, to the extent permitted by law, and urge its constituency to do so.

Signed on _____ by _____
(Date) (Name and Organizational Position)

Name of Organization: _____

Number of Members (if applicable): _____

Contact person: _____

Contact person's e-mail: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Mailing address: _____

Please return to: Smoke-Free NH Alliance, 9 Cedarwood Drive, Unit 11, Bedford, NH 03110 Fax: 641-4749 E-mail: rob@nhlung.org

New Hampshire Healthy Families Campaign Endorsers (as of 2/9/02)

American Cancer Society, New England Division
American Heart Association
American Lung Association of New Hampshire
Bi-State Primary Care Association
Foundation for Healthy Communities
National Association of Social Workers
NH Citizens Alliance
NH Hospital Association
NH Medical Society
Smoke-Free NH Alliance