

Virginia Faith Community Resolution

WHEREAS, the faith community regards children as a sacred gift and responsibility; and

WHEREAS, the faith community values health and abundant life; and

WHEREAS, tobacco use, most notably cigarette smoking, is widely accepted as the leading cause of premature death and respiratory debilitation in the United States; and

WHEREAS, tobacco use is a known and severe risk factor for distress of the unborn, miscarriages, and stillbirth, leading to premature birth and the risks of permanent disability associated with premature births; and

WHEREAS, tobacco use and smoke-filled air contributes to increasing incidences of asthma, ear infections, heart disease and cancer; and

WHEREAS, tobacco use is one of the factors that can lead to fire damage to structures, forests, and can lead to debilitating burn injuries; and

WHEREAS, nicotine is widely accepted as one of the most addicting substances known; and

WHEREAS, most people who become addicted to nicotine are still children without the benefit of adult judgment; and

WHEREAS, the most effective method of preventing adolescent use of tobacco has been demonstrated to be raising the price of cigarettes beyond the limited discretionary funds of young people; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the undersigned endorse:

- Increasing the Virginia cigarette tax by 75 cents, and to extend the tax to other non-cigarette tobacco products; and
- Using money raised by this increase in tobacco taxes to fund state programs that will advance the health, education and welfare of Virginia's children, families, and communities.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Title and/or Organization: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

My signature should be considered an endorsement by my organization

I sign as an individual only – this should not be considered an endorsement by my organization

**Signed Endorsements may be sent by FAX to
(804) 643-5927**

**or sent via Email to info@virginiafaithcommunities.org
or alternatively the form may be filled out online at www.virginiafaithcommunities.org**