



USING TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUNDS FOR TOBACCO PREVENTION SUPPORTIVE QUOTES FROM HIGH-RANKING STATE OFFICIALS

After the multistate tobacco settlement (MSA) was signed in November 1998, many governors, state attorneys general, and other high-ranking state officials expressed strong support for investing substantial portions of the tobacco settlement payments in new efforts to prevent and reduce tobacco use in their states.

“The nation’s Governors are committed to spending a significant portion of the tobacco settlement funds on smoking cessation programs, health care, education, and programs benefiting children.”

Governor Thomas Carper, Chairman of the National Governors Association and Utah Governor Michael Leavitt, Vice Chair, in letter to U.S. Senate Minority Leader Daschle, March 5, 1999

CONNECTICUT

“Everyone can see that stopping teens from smoking before they start is an important goal we all want to reach,” said Gov. Rowland.

Press Release from National Governors Association, April 19, 1999

ILLINOIS

Attorney General Jim Ryan wants half of the state’s \$9.1 billion windfall from the national tobacco lawsuit to go to health and anti-smoking programs. Ryan’s plan would earmark 50 percent of the money for uninsured children, smoking-cessation and anti-smoking education programs and helping police enforce tobacco restrictions on minors.

Daily Southtown, January 23, 1999.

INDIANA

"Nationwide, about 3,000 kids start smoking every day, and a third of them will die prematurely because of it," Governor Frank O'Bannon said. "This money can go a long way toward preventing Hoosier kids from ever getting hooked on tobacco and toward helping our citizens stop smoking and recover from smoking-related illness."

Press Release from Governor Frank O'Bannon (D) and Attorney General Jeff Modisett (D), November 20, 1998.

MARYLAND

We are committed to fighting for the kinds of programs that will substantially reduce smoking among our young people and that will prevent the next generation of prospective smokers from ever lighting their first cigarette.

Press Release from Governor Parris Glendening (D), November 20, 1998.

MASSACHUSETTS

"The money from the settlement should be used to... reduce tobacco use among children and adults, especially in minority and urban neighborhoods."

Former Attorney General Scott Harshbarger (D), *Boston Globe*, December 2, 1998.

"The goal of the [tobacco] lawsuit was to prevent people from smoking and recoup money spent on treating people who get sick from smoking," said Attorney General Tom Reilly (D). "It's important not to lose sight of that.... Everyone is seeing this as a panacea for all kinds of things. I don't see it that way."

Boston Globe, January 28, 1999.

MINNESOTA

"State legislatures also have a part to play. They must reinvest their tobacco dollars in developing and administering effective tobacco-control programs. In Minnesota, polls show overwhelming public support for spending most or even all of the money won in the settlement on public health programs."

Former Attorney General Hubert H. Humphrey III (D), *The New York Times*, November 24, 1998.

MONTANA

Under the terms of the settlement, Montana will receive an estimated \$832 million over the next 26 years. Attorney General Joe Mazurek said he will urge the Legislature to channel most of the money into public health programs, to meet the lawsuit's goal of reducing tobacco use and thus reducing the public health problems caused by smoking.

Press Release from Attorney General Joe Mazurek (D), November 19, 1998.

NEW JERSEY

"Every penny of these funds should be used for health purposes including prevention programs and counter advertising to protect kids, cessation programs and community partnerships to serve those who have already put their health at risk by smoking, in addition to existing important health programs such as charity care and KidCare."

Press Release from Governor Christie Whitman (R), November 16, 1998.

NEVADA

"The settlement contains groundbreaking controls on the tobacco industry in marketing and advertising that targets youth. These controls will benefit Nevada in achieving our highest priority, the prevention of smoking and tobacco use by children and teens. The settlement also contains substantial resources for funding community-based and population-based prevention efforts"

Press Release from Attorney General Frankie Sue Del Papa (D), November 20, 1998.

...We will, in turn, leave millions of dollars for worthy and innovative health care programs to preserve the integrity of the [tobacco] settlement and educate our children on the risks associated with smoking.

Governor Kenny Guinn (R), State of the State Address, January 18, 1999.

NORTH CAROLINA

Governor Jim Hunt (D) said the consent decree gives North Carolina "a balanced approach" to allocate tobacco settlement money. "It will help us address our efforts to crack down on underage smoking and to protect the health and well-being of North Carolinians," he said.

Raleigh News and Observer, December 22, 1998.

NORTH DAKOTA

First, I am proposing we devote 10 percent of any tobacco settlement dollars to public health programs, including important initiatives on diabetes, drug and alcohol abuse, and tobacco prevention and cessation.

Governor Edward T. Schafer (R), State of the State Address, January 5, 1999.

OHIO

"It's premature to rush to spend this [tobacco settlement] money," said Attorney General Betty Montgomery, who was joined at the announcement by members of the public health community. "The reason we got in this fight was to protect public health and prevent underage smoking. A significant portion of this money should go toward these causes."

Press Release from Attorney General Betty Montgomery (R), November 18, 1998.

OKLAHOMA

"While this agreement is a great beginning, we all realize that much more work needs to be done at the state and local levels to produce an effective tobacco control program," Attorney General W.A. Drew Edmondson said. "I would like to think that this settlement will help provide the momentum and the resources needed for an ongoing, comprehensive effort."

Press Release from Attorney General W.A. Drew Edmondson (D), November 16, 1998.

OREGON

"The Oregon legislature has discretion over how the money is used; however, I am hoping that Governor Kitzhaber and lawmakers, understanding the direct link between tobacco use and increased health care costs, will invest the proceeds in health care, namely, smoking cessation and prevention programs and increased access to health care," Attorney General Hardy Myers said.

Press Release from Attorney General Hardy Myers (D), November 20, 1998.

PENNSYLVANIA

"Emphysema, heart disease, cancer — more than 20,000 Pennsylvanians die from tobacco-related diseases each year," Attorney General Mike Fisher said. "I sued the tobacco industry because it conspired to increase the addictive properties of tobacco products and suppressed vital information about the deadly nature of tobacco. This money will not bring back those who have died, but it may be used to keep others from starting this deadly habit."

Press Release from Attorney General Mike Fisher (R), November 16, 1998.

UTAH

"Utah has a moral duty to invest a good part of this money in keeping our kids away from cigarettes. One-third of kids who start smoking will die of smoking caused disease," Attorney General Jan Graham said.

Press Release from Attorney General Jan Graham (D), November 16, 1998.

VERMONT

I propose that we set up a special trust fund and that the money be spent to educate Vermonters, particularly young Vermonters, about the extraordinary dangers of smoking. Tobacco is an addictive drug that claims the lives of nearly 1,000 of us in Vermont each year. We need to use this money to make it as difficult as possible, and as unattractive as possible, for Vermonters to get caught in this addiction.

Governor Howard Dean (D), State of the State Address, January 7, 1999.

"Now it will be up to the Legislature to decide how these moneys are to be spent. It would be a shame not to use the funds to make serious progress in helping Vermonters currently addicted to stop smoking and to do a better job convincing young Vermonters not to smoke," added Attorney General William Sorrell.

Press Release from Attorney General William Sorrell (D), November 20, 1998.

WASHINGTON

"Over the course of this century, we witnessed how products of the tobacco industry destroyed lives and stole from us our parents, brothers, sisters – people we loved," Locke said. "At the threshold of the 21st century, we'll use this settlement to settle the score with Big Tobacco. We'll use their money to build healthy, educated families who have the strength and knowledge to fight the addiction the tobacco industry is peddling. It is our goal to make the current generation of smokers in Washington the last generation of smokers in our state," Locke said.

Press Release from Governor Gary Locke (D), December 2, 1998.

"We have indicated we want all the moneys to be used for public health purposes..."

Attorney General Christine Gregoire (D), *Wall Street Journal*, November 23, 1998.

WEST VIRGINIA

It's premature to rush to spend this money. The reason we got in this fight was to protect public health and prevent underage smoking. A significant portion of this money should go toward these causes.

Press Release from Attorney General Darrell V. McGraw, Jr. (D), November 19, 1998.

NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

States already are spending state funds on smoking cessation programs and will substantially increase funding as the effectiveness of these programs is established. Many states have invested years in program design, modification, and evaluation to determine the best ways to prevent young people from taking up cigarette smoking and helping youth and adults quit smoking. The Governors see the human and economic burdens of tobacco use everyday...and are highly motivated to implement effective programs. The Governors will commit new funds as the effectiveness of these programs is proven.

National Governors Association, *Backgrounder on State Tobacco Settlement*, May 4, 1999

At the National Governors Association 1999 Winter Meeting, the nation's Governors unanimously passed a resolution stating that they are committed to spending a significant portion of the settlement funds on smoking cessation programs, health care, education, and programs benefiting children.

National Governors Association, *Backgrounder on State Tobacco Settlement*, May 4, 1999

ATTORNEYS GENERAL

The payments were intended to provide general monetary relief to the States, including past and prospective relief to the States for actual harm caused by cigarette smoking and to fund anti-smoking public health and education programs.

Settlement payments by the companies have provided the resources for effective State anti-tobacco campaigns, and reductions in youth smoking have been most dramatic in those States that have used settlement revenues to fund such programs.

Legal brief filed by 37 state and territorial Attorneys General in support of reducing the appeal bond Philip Morris must pay to appeal a judgement against it in Illinois, April 7, 2003

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION

Clinton assured the governors...that he would not insist on a cut for the federal government provided they spent, in four related areas, the amount on which Washington would otherwise insist: improving public health, reducing teenage smoking, benefiting children in additional ways, and assisting tobacco farmers.

New York Times, February 23, 1999

National Center for Tobacco-Free Kids, November 3, 2003