

# **BIG TOBACCO & CONVENIENCE STORES AN UNHEALTHY ALLIANCE**

Tobacco companies and convenience stores oppose increased tobacco taxes for the very reasons every major public health group supports them...

- Fewer kids will start smoking
- More smokers will quit
- State governments will have more money to help people stop smoking

Big Tobacco has a long history of saying anything to sell cigarettes, and convenience stores have a long history of accepting billions of dollars to do Big Tobacco's bidding...

- Tobacco companies pay billions to convenience stores to promote and sell cigarettes
- 30 states reported increased ILLEGAL tobacco sales to kids between 2008 & 2009
- In a 2010 survey, 63% of 12-17 year olds said it is easy for underage kids to buy cigarettes



## **Is an increased tobacco tax bad for business?**

For Big Tobacco, yes. For convenience stores, no. Despite years of industry scare tactics, new research shows raising the tobacco tax does not decrease the number of convenience stores.



**TOBACCO TAXES:  
WIN for Health.  
WIN for State Budgets.  
WIN for Policy Makers.**