

North Carolina Advisory Committee on Cancer Coordination and Control

Tobacco Tax Increase Resolution

WHEREAS, the use of tobacco products is the leading cause of preventable cancer deaths in North Carolina¹;

WHEREAS, smoking is the predominant cause of lung cancer, and little else contributes to lung cancer incidence; and evidence is sufficient to infer a causal relationship between smoking and an additional 8 cancers including laryngeal, oral cavity and pharyngeal, esophageal, kidney, pancreatic, cervical, stomach cancers and acute myeloid leukemia²; and

WHEREAS, Secondhand smoke has been estimated to be the third leading preventable cause of death in the nation³; and

WHEREAS, there are evidence-based interventions known to prevent and reduce tobacco⁴ use that are not being implemented in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the most proven way to prevent and reduce tobacco use by children and to help tobacco users quit is to substantially increase the cost of cigarettes and other tobacco products⁴; and

WHEREAS, an increase in the cigarette tax of 75-cents would result in a youth smoker decline of 15.7% (101,600); an adult smoker decline of 3.6% (56,600); and 14,900 fewer smoking caused deaths⁵; and

WHEREAS, an increase in the cigarette tax of 75-cents would result in overall long-term health savings of \$2.1 billion⁵; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's cigarette tax is currently 5 cents, the lowest in the nation and even a 75 cent increase would be below the national average of 84 ½ cents per pack⁵; and

WHEREAS, Tobacco use costs the state \$4.7 billion in excess medical costs and lost productivity⁶; and

WHEREAS, the state Cancer Control Branch has lost considerable cancer control funding due to state budget constraints; and

WHEREAS, an increase in the cigarette tax of 75-cents would generate \$349 million⁵ in new cigarette tax revenue, a portion of which could go to support evidence-based cost-effective tobacco use treatment and prevention programs including but not limited to counseling via a state Quitline and FDA-approved pharmacotherapies for the underserved⁷;

Therefore be it Resolved that the cigarette tax be increased by at least 75-cents a pack and the tax on other cancer causing tobacco products be increased by a like percentage by weight in North Carolina in FY 05-06.

¹ State Center for Health Statistics, NC DHHS

² Surgeon Generals Report 2004 US Public Health Service

³ American Cancer Society website and Glantz, SA Parmley WW. *Passive Smoking and coronary heart disease*. *Circulation* 1991;83:1-11.

⁴ D Hopkins and J Fielding: The Guide to Community Preventive Services: Tobacco Use Prevention and Control. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*; 2001; 20:2S www.thecommunityguide.org

⁵ Prepared for NC by the Center for Tobacco Free Kids based on current scientific evidence; www.tobaccofreekids.org

⁶ Centers for Disease Control www.cdc.gov/tobacco

⁷ Analysis requested by Legislative Fiscal Research (4/05)

ADOPTED: April 22, 2005