**An Act Protecting Youth from Nicotine Addiction**

**H.2763 (Rep. Decker) and S.1848 (Sen. Keenan)**

**WHAT AN ACT PROTECTING YOUTH FROM NICOTINE BILL DOES**

* **Raises the excise tax by $1.00 on a pack of cigarettes from $3.51 to $4.51.**
* **Raises the tax on cigars from 40% of wholesale to 80% of wholesale.**

**WHY WE NEED THIS BILL**

* **Increases in state cigarette taxes is linked to reduction in smoking levels specifically among young adults.[[1]](#footnote-1)**
* The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that an increase in excise taxes in Massachusetts, for example, when combined with an antismoking campaign, produced a 19.7% decline in cigarette consumption per capita 4 years after the tax increase was initiated.[[2]](#footnote-2)
* *The Economics of Tobacco and Tobacco Control* reaffirmed "significantly increasing the excise tax and price of tobacco products is the single most consistently effective tool for reducing tobacco use."[[3]](#footnote-3)
* Additionally, increasing excise taxes on tobacco products is especially effective in discouraging initiation among young people who have not developed an addiction to tobacco, thus protecting their health and increasing their likelihood of remaining tobacco-free.

**Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable illness and premature death in MA**

* Tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death, killing more than 9,300 people in Massachusetts each year.[[4]](#footnote-4)
* Kids now under 18 and alive in Massachusetts who will ultimately die prematurely from smoking, 103,000.[[5]](#footnote-5)

**Tobacco use takes a huge financial toll on the economy**

The CDC estimates that in Massachusetts, tobacco use costs an estimated $4.08 billion in health care costs *each year*, including approximately $1.26 billion in state Medicaid expenditures.

**In Conclusion**

Increasing tobacco excise taxes should remain a key element of public health policy in the ongoing efforts to eradicate tobacco use and thus improve population health.

**For more information, please contact**

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1. Sharbaugh MS, Althouse AD, Thoma FW, Lee JS, Figueredo VM, Mulukutla SR (2018) Impact of cigarette taxes on smoking prevalence from 2001-2015: A report using the Behavioral and Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS). PLoS ONE 13(9): e0204416. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0204416 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Cigarette smoking before and after an excise tax increase and an anti-smoking campaign–Massachusetts, 1990–1996. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 1996;45(44):966–970. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://tobacconomics.org/uploads/misc/2017/11/effectiveness-of-tobacco-taxes\_brief.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Youth projected to die prematurely: *The Health Consequences of Smoking: 50 Years of Progress. A Report of the Surgeon General,* 2014. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Youth projected to die prematurely: *The Health Consequences of Smoking: 50 Years of Progress. A Report of the Surgeon General,* 2014. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)