



RHODE ISLAND  
MEDICAL SOCIETY



## Public Health Organizations Oppose HB 7351

### Why Big Tobacco supports rolling back tobacco taxes:

- High tobacco excise taxes are among the most effective ways of reducing tobacco use: high price prevents youth from starting to smoke, and encourages adult smokers to quit.
- Cigarette price and tax increases work even more effectively to reduce smoking among males, Blacks, Hispanics, and low-income smokers.
- A cigarette tax increase that raises prices by 10% will reduce smoking among pregnant women by 7%, preventing thousands of spontaneous abortions and still-born births, and saving tens of thousands of newborns from suffering from smoking-affected births and related health consequences.
- Every single state that has raised its cigarette tax rate has subsequently received more tax revenue than they would have received without a rate increase, despite the fact that cigarette tax increases reduce state smoking levels and despite any related increases in cigarette smuggling or tax evasion. Put simply, the increased tax per pack brings in more new state revenue than is lost from the related reductions in the number of packs sold and taxed in the state. <http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0146.pdf>

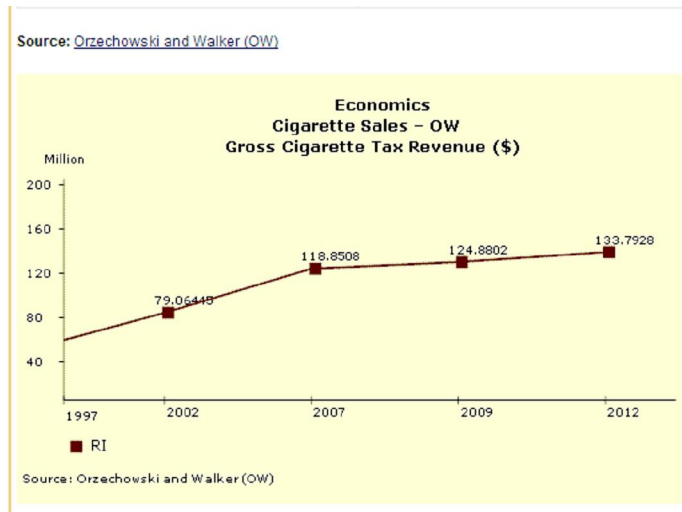
# History proves that **high tobacco taxes are good** for Rhode Island

Since 2001, the cigarette excise tax has gone up **SIX** times,  
**smoking rates have gone DOWN** and **State revenues have gone way UP!**

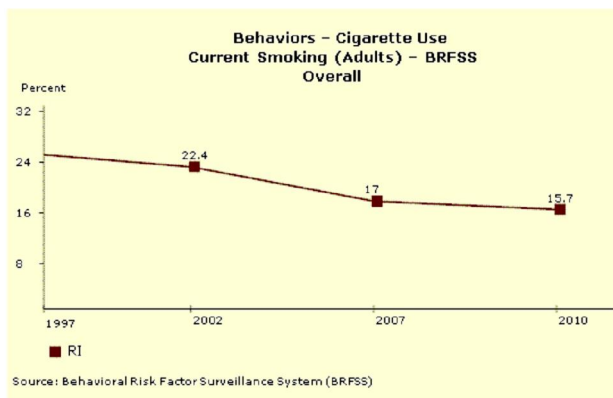
In 2001, the state excise tax was 71-cents per pack and the gross cigarette tax revenue in RI was **\$59.1 million**

In 2009, the state excise tax was raised to \$3.46 per pack and the gross cigarette tax revenue in RI was **\$124.9 million**

In 2012, the state excise tax was raised to \$3.50 per pack and the gross cigarette tax revenue in RI was **\$133.79 million**



Source: [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System \(BRFSS\)](#)



**Prices go up**

**Smoking goes down!**

**Please reject  
HB 7351!**