

RIHON

Rhode Island Tobacco Control Network



HEALTHY
COMMUNITIES
OFFICE

SUPPORT HB 5806 & SB 247

The most effective proven approach to reducing death and disease caused by smoking and other tobacco use is a three-pronged strategy combining:

- Comprehensive smoke-free and tobacco-free laws;
- Regular and significant increases in tobacco taxes; and
- Fully-funding evidence-based tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

HB 5806, sponsored by Representative Arthur Handy, and SB 247, sponsored by Senator Juan Pichardo, provide 2 out of the three best practices for reducing tobacco use: Higher prices and a meaningful investment in prevention and cessation services.

Our neighbor to the north, Massachusetts, has recently voted to increase its tobacco excise tax by \$1 per pack and several other states expect significant tobacco tax increases in 2013 to combat tobacco use and raise needed revenue.

HB 5806 and SB 247 provide a win-win-win for Rhode Island:

Win #1 - A 90-cent increase will motivate 3,700 Rhode Islanders to quit smoking for good and will **stop 2,900 kids from ever becoming addicted** to cigarettes.ⁱ

Win #2 - A 90-cent increase will generate an estimated **\$15.59 million in new revenue** for the state of RI.ⁱⁱ

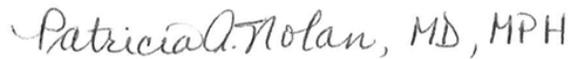
Win #3 - \$3.1 million of this new revenue will be directed toward **tobacco prevention and cessation** programs and services.

We urge you to protect the state's proud commitment to tobacco control and public health by approving this vital disease prevention legislation.

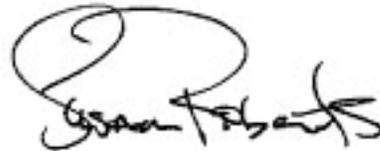
Respectfully yours,



Robert Crausman, MD
Steering Committee Chairman
Rhode Island Tobacco Control Network



Patricia Nolan, MD
Policy Committee Co-Chair
Rhode Island Tobacco Control Network



Susan Roberts
Policy Committee Co-Chair
Rhode Island Tobacco Control Network

American Cancer Society-Cancer Action Network
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
City of Providence, Healthy Communities Office
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
March of Dimes
Partnership to Reduce Cancer in Rhode Island
Rhode Island Medical Society
Rhode Island Public Health Institute
Rhode Island State Nurses Association
Barrington Prevention Coalition
East Providence Prevention Coalition
Pawtucket Prevention Coalition

ⁱ Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, Jan. 4, 2013 <http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0281.pdf>
Projections are based on research findings that each 10% cigarette price increase reduces youth smoking by 6.5%, adult rates by 2%, and total consumption by about 4% (adjusted down to account for tax evasion effects).

ⁱⁱ Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, Jan. 4, 2013 <http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0281.pdf>
Revenues still increase because the higher tax rate per pack will bring in more new revenue than is lost from the tax-related drop in total pack sales.