



Pass the Buck!

The Campaign to Raise Florida's Tobacco Excise Tax

The American Cancer Society, Florida Division, is advocating for a \$1 per pack tax increase on cigarettes. By raising the tax, we'll reduce tobacco consumption, reduce the state's health care costs from tobacco-related diseases and generate significant funding to invest in our health care system.

Public Health Gains

- 125,000 Floridians will quit smoking. Studies from multiple other states show that for every 10 percent increase in the price of cigarettes, smoking decreases by approximately 4 percent.
- The number of kids who smoke will drop about 7 percent.
- 90% of smokers started when they were in their teens or even younger.
- Every day, 4,000 teens try their first cigarette. A \$1 per pack increase will significantly reduce that number.

You can't be serious about cancer control...

unless you're serious about tobacco control.

A Budget Solution in the Aftermath of January 2009 Special Session

- The Legislature just made \$2.8 billion in current year budget cuts, dipping heavily into reserves and trust funds, including the Lawton Chiles Endowment, leaving fewer options for the nearly \$4 billion in additional cuts anticipated for FY 2009-10.
- The State of Florida is facing a massive budget crisis, with \$6.4 billion less to spend this year resulting in over \$1 billion dollars in healthcare cuts. Florida expects to be just as cash strapped in the coming year, and the additional revenue from a cigarette tax can help restore some of these healthcare cuts.
- A \$1 per pack increase in the cigarette tax will generate upwards of \$750 million to \$1 billion dollars in additional revenue for the state.

Revenue to Improve Florida's Health Care

- Florida is facing an alarming shortage of health care providers that will affect every person in Florida.
- Nationwide, we will be short 124,000 physicians. Yet, Florida isn't doing enough to train new physicians. The state ranks 43rd in the number of residencies and fellowships in the United States. In Florida, 78 percent who complete both medical school and residency training stay here to practice.
- Today, Florida needs 11,000 more nurses. By 2020, we will need 50,000 nurses. But Florida's universities had to turn away 8,500 qualified nursing students last year because there were not enough faculty to teach them.

Savings For Florida's Non-Smoking Families

- Annual health care costs in Florida directly caused by smoking are \$6.2 billion.
- Smoking causes \$6.47 billion in productivity losses.
- The tax burden for each family in Florida from smoking is \$585 per household.

Tobacco Tax Statistics

- Florida's current cigarette excise tax is 33.9-cents, 46th in the nation.
- The last increase in Florida's cigarette excise tax was 1990.
- Florida spends approximately \$1.3 billion in Medicaid for smoking related illnesses while generating only \$401 million in cigarette taxes.