

Priority 2013

Increase State Cigarette Excise Tax by 90-cents Per Pack: Invest in Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

The **RITCN strongly supports** efforts to increase the state's cigarette excise tax by 90-cents per pack. The House Bill (HB5806), sponsored by **Representative Art Handy**, of Cranston, and Senate Bill (SB247) sponsored by **Senator Juan Pichardo**, of Providence, is a **win-win-win** for the people of 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.

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

Win #3 - New revenues will be directed toward **tobacco prevention and cessation** programs and health and wellness services.



Why does it matter?

Voters want it. A Brown University poll found that nearly 66% of voters support a 90-cent cigarette tax increase with funding to support tobacco prevention programs. (Oct. 2012 survey of 354 registered voters)

Tobacco use is still the leading cause of premature death and disease in Rhode Island, killing more people than AIDS, cocaine, heroin, alcohol, car accidents, homicides, and suicides combined.

Tobacco-caused health care costs are crippling our economy with over a half-billion dollars each year going towards smoking-caused health care expenditures and \$179 million in state Medicaid spending alone.

Source: Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids

TAXPAYER WARNING: Failure to substantially raise tobacco taxes will harm state finances and public health.

Rhode Island Tobacco Control Network
401-533-5179
www.RITCN.org



RITCN Partner Organizations

American Academy of Pediatrics, Rhode Island Chapter
American Cancer Society
American Heart Association
American Lung Association Rhode Island
American Medical Association chapter at Brown University
Babysteps (Newport, RI)
Boys and Girls Club of Woonsocket
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
Carbuccia + Associates
Center for Hispanic Policy and Advocacy, Inc. (CHisPA)
Central Falls Prevention Coalition
Chariho Task Force
CODAC Behavioral Healthcare
Colombian American Cultural Society
Davey Lopes Center
Diocese of Providence
Discovery House
Discovery House NRF
Discovery House Woonsocket
Global Insurance Multi-Service
Healthcentric Advisors
Healthy Communities Office, City of Providence
Initiatives for Human Development
Jamestown Prevention Coalition
John Hope Settlement House
Laotian Community Center of Rhode Island, Inc.
Latino Policy Institute at Roger Williams University Metro Center
Lifespan Community Health Services
March of Dimes
M+R Strategic Services
The Met
Narragansett Prevention Partnership
Neighborhood Health Plan of RI
New England Laborers' Health & Safety Fund
Newport Residents Council, Inc.
Ocean State Action
Partnership To Reduce Cancer In Rhode Island
Pawtucket Prevention Coalition
Progreso Latino
Providence Academy of International Studies (P.A.I.S.) High School
Providence Community Health Centers
Rhode Island Cancer Council, Inc.
Rhode Island Dental Association
Rhode Island Medical Society
Rhode Island Parent Information Network
Rhode Island Public Health Institute
Rhode Island State Nurses Association
Rhode Island Student Assistance Services
Tati's Nutrition Center
Tobacco Free Providence
Urban League of Rhode Island
Warwick Substance Abuse Task Force
Woodlawn Community Development Corporation
Woonsocket Prevention Coalition
Working Together For Wellness Coalition
Young Voices
YWCA Northern Rhode Island