

Oppose H 5327: Don't roll back the cigarette tax

- 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.
- **Smoking-caused health care costs in Rhode Island: \$13.24 per pack**
- **Current state cigarette tax: \$3.50 per pack**
- **Annual health care expenditures in Rhode Island directly caused by tobacco use: \$640 million**
- **Smoking-caused state Medicaid program spending each year: \$179 million**
- Decreases in cigarette tax rates can increase cigarette use by making tobacco products more accessible and attractive to youth, and more affordable to adults who would quit if prices were higher. Maintaining high tobacco tax rates will keep these deadly products out of the hands of youth and encourage adults to quit.
- 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

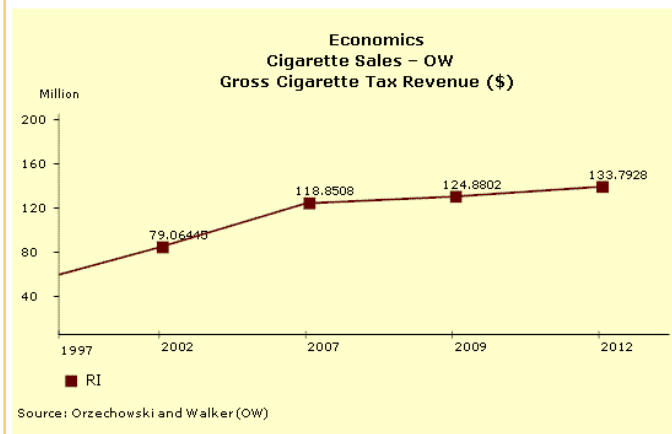
Since 2001, the cigarette excise tax has gone up **SIX** times, **smoking rates have gone DOWN** and **State revenues have gone way UP!**

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

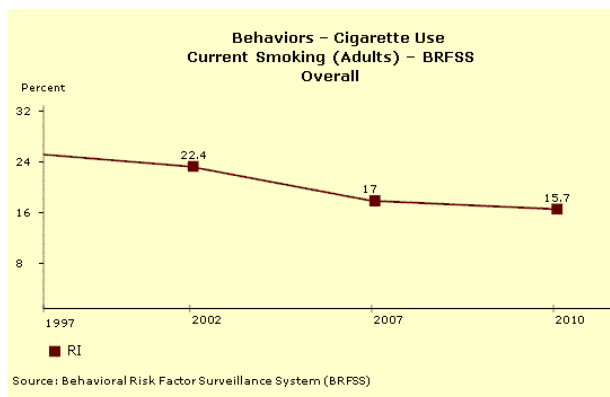
In 2009, the state excise tax was raised to \$3.46 per pack and the gross cigarette tax revenue in RI was **\$124.9 million**

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: [Orzechowski and Walker \(OW\)](#)



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



Prices **go up**

Smoking goes down!

**Please reject
H 5327!**