

Dear Tobacco Control Advocate:

Tobacco use takes an enormous toll on health, lives and money in every state in the U.S. and Pennsylvania is no exception. Each year, tobacco use claims more than 400,000 lives and costs Pennsylvanians \$5.2 billion in health care costs.

We have the opportunity to improve the lives of Pennsylvanians and decrease health care costs by reducing tobacco use in the Commonwealth. Pennsylvania is the only state in the country that does not receive revenue from other tobacco products. Other tobacco products consist of all non-cigarette tobacco products, including oral snuff, chew, loose leaf tobacco, cigars and cigarillos. By closing the loophole and establishing a much needed excise tax on other tobacco products, we can reduce the rate of tobacco use, raise revenue for Pennsylvania and reduce health care costs attributable to tobacco-related diseases.

The time is now for Pennsylvania to close the loophole and enact an excise tax on other tobacco products. Please encourage your organization to sign on to the attached letter and help reduce tobacco use in the Commonwealth.

Thank you for your consideration.

Please Note: The attached letter is NOT lobbying. Organizations that receive government funding may sign on.



CLOSE THE LOOPHOLE AND ENACT AN EXCISE TAX ON
OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS IN PA

WHEREAS, The U.S. Surgeon General has determined that the use of other tobacco products, such as oral snuff, chew, pipe tobacco, cigars and cigarillos can lead to oral cancer, gum disease, and nicotine addiction, and increases the risk of cardiovascular disease, including heart attacks; and

WHEREAS, Other tobacco products are as addictive as cigarettes and can cause the same type of dependence, which makes quitting very difficult; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is the only state that does not have an excise tax on other tobacco products; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 7 percent of adult males in Pennsylvania use smokeless tobacco, compared to the national average of 3 percent; and

WHEREAS, Closing the loophole and taxing other tobacco products would raise much needed revenue for the Commonwealth, reduce tobacco use and save lives;

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the below named Organization, of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim our full support of closing the loophole and taxing other tobacco products to raise revenue, reduce health care costs, and reduce tobacco use in the Commonwealth. An excise tax on other tobacco products will *save lives*.

Name of Organization (*please print*) Number of Members

Authorized Signature Contact person (*please print*) Date

Organization Street Address County

City State Zip

Phone Fax

Email

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