

Public Health Council Resolution

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(MADISON, May 12, 2005)—In the interests of meeting the goals for reducing tobacco use and exposure as stated in *Healthiest Wisconsin 2010*, the state health plan, the Wisconsin Public Health Council submits the following resolution:

Whereas, 7,800 people die of tobacco-related causes annually in Wisconsin; and

Whereas, the citizens of Wisconsin annually incur \$1.86 billion in health care costs related to tobacco-related disease; and

Whereas, 15 percent of Wisconsin women smoke during pregnancy representing a ranking of 34th in the nation; and

Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has outlined the elements of a comprehensive tobacco control plan which includes eliminating exposure to second-hand smoke, prevention of youth initiation of tobacco use, evidence-based methods to reduce tobacco addiction, eliminating tobacco disparities, and supporting a significant price increase for tobacco products; and

Whereas, Wisconsin currently spends \$10 million for tobacco control while the CDC has estimated the optimal annual level of funding for such a comprehensive tobacco control program in Wisconsin should be \$30 million; and

Whereas, 20 local Wisconsin communities have passed ordinances to promote clean indoor air by reducing their citizens' exposure to second-hand smoke in public places;

Now, be it resolved that Wisconsin will become a smoke-free state by the year 2010; and

The Wisconsin Public Health Council further resolves that short-term strategies to accomplish this goal include:

1. Significantly increase the price of tobacco products in order to reduce use, especially among children and youth, as would occur with at least a \$1.00 increase in the tobacco tax;
2. Direct revenue generated by such a price increase to support a comprehensive tobacco control program and to fund the costs of caring for persons with tobacco-related disease, including in the Medicaid program.
3. Accelerate enactment and enforcement of strong local anti-tobacco ordinances.
4. Enact non-preemptive statewide laws to promote Wisconsin as a smoke free state.

Be it further resolved that we are committed to developing long-term strategies to accomplish the goal of a smoke-free Wisconsin by employing evidence-based methods to reduce initiation and continuance of the addictive practice, and eliminating tobacco disparities, to include untoward impacts on underserved populations.

For more information on the Public Health Council, go to <http://publichealthcouncil.dhfs.wi.gov>