

Public Health Council Resolution

February 9, 2007

In the interests of meeting the goals of *Healthiest Wisconsin 2010*, the state health plan, for reducing tobacco use and exposure, the Wisconsin Public Health Council submits the following resolution to the Governor of Wisconsin:

Whereas, 8,000 people die of tobacco-related causes annually in Wisconsin; and

Whereas, the citizens of Wisconsin annually incur \$2.16 billion in health care costs related to tobacco-related disease; and

Whereas, 14 percent of Wisconsin women smoke during pregnancy representing a ranking of 32nd 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, 31 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 now; and

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

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 \$1.25 increase in the tobacco tax;
2. Direct revenue generated by such a price increase to support a comprehensive tobacco control efforts and to fund the costs of caring for persons with tobacco-related disease and target those populations disparately burdened by tobacco use and exposure, including in the Medicaid program.
3. Ban smoking in all public places including worksites, restaurants, bars and taverns.
4. Accelerate enactment and enforcement of strong local anti-tobacco ordinances.
5. 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-related health disparities, to include untoward impacts on underserved populations.