



At Susan G. Komen, our mission is to save lives and end breast cancer forever. We are the world's largest and most progressive grassroots network fighting breast cancer. The Komen Kansas affiliate of Susan G Komen strongly supports SB 233 to increase in the tobacco excise tax.

Recent research funded by the National Cancer Institute has found smoking increases the lifetime risk of breast cancer. Researchers have found that young women who are current or recent smokers and who have been smoking a pack a day for at least 10 years have an increased lifetime risk of breast cancer. Furthermore, there is growing evidence that smoking decreases overall survival for women diagnosed with breast cancer.

Fifty years after the release of the Surgeon General's report warning of the health hazards of smoking, public health advocates, scientists, researchers and policy makers know how to end the tobacco epidemic. The most direct and effective method for reducing tobacco consumption is to increase the price of tobacco products. Higher tobacco prices encourage quitting among existing tobacco users, prevents initiation among potential users, and reduces the quantity of tobacco consumed among those who continue to smoke. Additionally, higher taxes are particularly effective in reducing tobacco use among vulnerable populations, such as youth, pregnant women, and low-income smokers.

Because our mission is to save lives and end breast cancer forever, we strongly encourage you to support the tobacco excise tax. A vote to increase the excise tax can make a significant difference in the lives of Kansans. It can help ensure that another woman never has to tell their child she has breast cancer.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Bruce, Director of Mission, Susan G. Komen – Kansas Affiliate

Peggy Johnson, Chair, Mission Advisory Council, Kansas Affiliate