



Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 463
Senate Ways and Means

March 8, 2016

Chairman Masterson and members of the committee:

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Oral Health Kansas, and Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition oppose SB 463, specifically the portions dealing with the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) proceeds. **Eliminating the Kansas Endowment for Youth (KEY) and Children's Initiatives Fund (CIF) puts future funding for essential programs – including tobacco prevention and cessation – at risk and is counter to the intent of the MSA.**

The primary purpose of the MSA is “to decrease youth smoking and promote public health” (The Master Settlement Agreement: An Overview, Tobacco Control Legal Consortium). **Supporting tobacco prevention and cessation is an important component to supporting the health of all Kansans – and saving the state millions of dollars in health care costs as well as lost productivity.** Tobacco remains a huge public health problem, and causes about one in five deaths.

The settlement money that flows through the KEY and CIF is the only state-level source of tobacco prevention and cessation funding for Kansas. **Currently Kansas spends just \$946, 761 on tobacco prevention and all of this money comes from the KEY and CIF. This amount is 3.4% of Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommended level necessary for effective prevention and cessation** (How Do You Measure Up 2015). Capping the amount of money spent for children's programming - including smoking prevention – at \$50 million annually is unwise when we are not meeting the need for tobacco prevention and cessation services.

The money from the MSA is not tax revenue – this is private settlement money that is due to the state because of the serious health consequences related to tobacco use. **Keeping these funds separate reminds lawmakers of the source and intended purpose of MSA proceeds.** For these reasons, our organizations oppose SB 463 and the efforts to dismantle the KEY and CIF.

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