



TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF A TOBACCO TAX INCREASE OF \$1.50 PER PACK
Committee on Taxation (HB 2315)

Chairman Johnson and Members of the Committee

February 16, 2017

The Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (KAAP) represents over 90% of the practicing pediatricians in the state. The KAAP has the fundamental goal that all children and adolescents in Kansas have the opportunity to grow safe and strong. It is with this goal in mind that we are asking for passage of a Tobacco Tax Increase of \$1.50 per pack because of the positive effect it will have on the health of children and their families in the state.

We are asking you to help protect Kansas children, teens, adolescents and their families by approving a \$1.50 per pack increase and an equivalent tax on OTP, with \$5 million devoted to tobacco prevention and cessation, and other revenue invested in health programs.

Below are the projected Public Health Benefits for Kansas from a Tobacco Tax Rate Increase.

<i>Percent decrease in youth (under age 18) smoking:</i>	16.9%
<i>Youth under age 18 kept from becoming adult smokers:</i>	16,200
<i>Reduction in young adult (18-24 years old) smokers:</i>	3,400
<i>Current adult smokers who would quit:</i>	20,000
<i>Premature smoking-caused deaths prevented:</i>	10,200
<i>5-Year reduction in the number of smoking-affected pregnancies and births:</i>	3,500

Additionally, there are significant health cost savings from a Tobacco Tax Rate Increase.

<i>5-Year health care cost savings from fewer smoking-caused lung cancer cases:</i>	\$3.62 million
<i>5-Year health care cost savings from fewer smoking-affected pregnancies and births:</i>	\$8.72 million
<i>5-Year health care cost savings from fewer smoking-caused heart attacks & strokes:</i>	\$7.65 million
<i>5-Year Medicaid program savings for the state:</i>	\$3.00 million
<i>Long-term health care cost savings from adult & youth smoking declines:</i>	\$740.24 million

The KAAP supports a \$1.50 per pack increase and an equivalent tax on OTP, with \$5 million devoted to tobacco prevention and cessation. Thank you.

Submitted by
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