



3-9-18

Honorable Caryn Tyson, Chair, Assessment and Taxation
State Capitol Building
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Tyson,

I am writing to you today to ask for your support for SB 376, increasing the tax on a package of cigarettes by \$1.50.

There is absolutely no benefit to the use of tobacco. In all my years of counseling, I have never known a person who said "Someday, I hope my kid grows up to be a smoker." The vast majority of people I counseling to stop tobacco use wish they never, ever started.

We know this bill will stop young people from ever starting to use tobacco. It will cause people who now smoke to stop. It will decrease infant mortality rates. It will increase life expectancy in neighborhoods like mine where the average age of death is 60 years old. It will reduce healthcare related spending. And it will benefit the state by bringing in revenue from those who choose to continue to use tobacco products.

This is an easy decision, only made difficult by those who lobby on behalf of this product that kills people. I ask you to demonstrate the political courage that lead you to run for office in the first place and move this bill forward out of committee so that it can become law. You will be part of a large team of people who are dedicated to saving the lives of fellow Kansans from an early death due to tobacco use.

Sincerely,

Linda Warner, LCPC
Director of Counseling and Advocacy
Kansas City Kansas Community College
7250 State Avenue
Kansas City KS 66112