

11.17 Tobacco Settlement Money

Resolution passed 2000; amended 2005; amended 2014

Whereas, tobacco use rates among youth have stalled in past years but are still too high; and

Whereas, smoking kills more than 480,000 Americans each year and tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death in the United States, with exposure to secondhand smoke causing 49,000 deaths; and

Whereas, the use of emerging tobacco products is increasing among United States youths; and

Whereas, smoking-related diseases in Washington state result in \$1.6 billion in health-care costs annually; and

Whereas, in 2012, 10 percent of Washington state youth 6th through 12th grade smoked. Washington state ranks 15th among the states of youth that smoke; and

Whereas, in 2012 in Washington state, 50 youth start smoking cigarettes each day, one in three of all youth smokers will die prematurely from a smoking-related disease, and smoking is associated with the increased risk of drug use and low academic performance; and

Whereas, nearly 9 out of 10 smokers started smoking by age 19, and 99 percent started by age 26, with progression from occasional to daily smoking almost always occurring by age 26; and

Whereas, there are 124,000 kids now under the age of 18 living in Washington state who will ultimately die prematurely from smoking; and

Whereas, National PTA endorses the concept of a smoke-free young America and encourages all PTAs/PTSAs to cooperate in educational and promotional activities designed to discourage students from smoking or using tobacco in any form; and

Whereas, in 2012, the Healthy Youth Survey reported that 1 percent of Washington state sixth-graders, 5 percent of eighth-graders, 10 percent of tenth-graders, and 16 percent of high school seniors had smoked a cigarette in the past 30 days; and


Whereas, comprehensive tobacco prevention programs cost money; and

Whereas, Washington state will receive \$620 million in tobacco-generated revenue in 2014 and has budgeted only \$760,000 in tobacco prevention spending in that same fiscal year; and

Whereas, states that are having a successful reduction in tobacco usage have initiated comprehensive tobacco prevention programs.

Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils continue to support legislative efforts to increase the allocation of tobacco settlement funds recommended to support health programs aimed at the (including prevention, intervention, and control of tobacco product use by youth; and be it further



Resolved, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils collaborate with other organizations in lobbying for legislative action; and be it further

Resolved, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils sponsor presentations and workshops aimed at the prevention, intervention, and control of tobacco product use by youth.