

RESOLUTION: RAISING THE MINIMUM AGE OF LEGAL ACCESS TO TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO AGE 21

WHEREAS: Tobacco remains the leading cause of preventable disease and premature death in the U.S., and one of the largest drivers of health care costs;

WHEREAS: Each year approximately 1,800 Idahoans die from tobacco use and 1,100 Idaho youth become new regular, daily smokers, of whom one-third will die prematurely because of this addiction;

WHEREAS: 95% of current adult smokers began using tobacco before age 21, and the ages of 18 to 21 are a critical period when many experimental smokers transition to regular, daily use;

WHEREAS: Adolescents are more likely to obtain cigarettes from social sources than through commercial transactions, and youth who reported receiving offers of cigarettes from friends were more likely to initiate smoking and progress to experimentation. Raising the legal age of access to 21 would reduce the likelihood that young people would have access to tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, and liquid nicotine products through social sources;

WHEREAS: Currently more than 130 cities in 10 states, and the State of Hawaii have already raised the minimum age of legal access to tobacco products, and a number of other states and municipalities are currently considering legislation to do so;

WHEREAS: Smoking-caused health costs in Idaho total more than \$508 million per year, including more than \$100.5 million in state and federal Medicaid expenditures, and raising the age of legal access to tobacco products, e-cigarettes and liquid nicotine products to age 21 will likely decrease overall usage rates, which in turn will likely lead to reduced future tobacco-related health care costs;

WHEREAS: The tobacco industry aggressively markets and promotes its products to continue recruiting young adults as new consumers. Despite legal settlements and laws, the tobacco companies still spend \$9.6 billion per year to market their deadly and addictive products, and they continue to entice and addict America's youth. According to the U.S. Surgeon General, the more young people are exposed to advertising and promotional activities for tobacco products, e-cigarettes and liquid nicotine products, the more likely they are to use them. More than 80% of underage smokers choose brands from among the top 3 most heavily advertised;

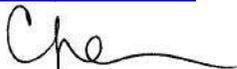
WHEREAS: The Institute of Medicine concluded that raising the age of legal access to tobacco products to 21 years of age will likely prevent or delay initiation of tobacco use by adolescents and young adults, immediately improve the health of adolescents and young adults, improve maternal, fetal, and infant health outcomes, and substantially reduce smoking prevalence and smoking-related mortality over time, and predicted that raising the age now to 21 nationwide would result in approximately 249,000 fewer premature deaths, 45,000 fewer deaths from lung cancer, and 4.2 million fewer years of life lost for those born between 2000 and 2019;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the undersigned endorses raising the minimum age of legal access to tobacco products, e-cigarettes, and liquid nicotine products to 21 years of age.

The **Idaho Public Health Association** of **Idaho**, confirms its support for each and all the above statements. The undersigned authorizes and encourages Tobacco-Free Treasure Valley to use this signed Resolution to promote the above-stated objective.

Organization Name: Idaho Public Health Association
Title: Ms. **Contact Person (Print):** Charlene Cariou
Phone, E-mail: idpublichlth@yahoo.com

Authorized Signature:



Number of Members: 87
Address: PO Box 6247 Boise ID 83707

Date: 4/22/2016

Please Print Name: Charlene Cariou

Title: President, 2016

Please return to: Corey Surber, Saint Alphonsus Health System, 1055 N Curtis Rd., Boise, ID 83706;
Or e-mail to Corey.Surber@saintalphonsus.org