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## Resolution to Support a Fully Funded Tobacco Control Program

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*Adopted by the Tobacco Free North Dakota Board of Directors August 26, 2024*

**Whereas** the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends North Dakota spends \$9.8 million per year for a tobacco control program<sup>i</sup>; and

**Whereas** North Dakota currently spends \$7.11 million per year for its tobacco control program<sup>ii</sup>; and

**Whereas** North Dakota's General Fund earned \$47.5 million in tobacco tax collections from 2021-2023, as well as \$70.9 million as part of the Master Settlement Agreement during the same timeframe<sup>iii</sup>; and

**Whereas** North Dakota's program provides tobacco cessation counseling and services to nearly 2,000 adults each year<sup>iv</sup>; and

**Whereas** states that make larger investments into tobacco control programs see a reduction in tobacco sales<sup>v</sup>; and

**Whereas** having a robust media campaign has a direct effect on decreasing tobacco related medical expenses, usage rates, increasing utilization and awareness of cessation services, and decreased youth initiation rates<sup>vi</sup>; and

**Whereas** Quit Week has become an established, annual cessation campaign in June to highlight the availability of resources in North Dakota to treat people with nicotine dependence; and

**Whereas** 75 percent of North Dakota adults believe commercial tobacco use in youth is a moderate or serious problem<sup>vii</sup>; and

**Whereas** nearly 9 in 10 people that smoke started before the age of 18<sup>viii</sup>; and

**Whereas** 21.2% of high school students (grades 9-12) in the North Dakota Youth Risk Behavior Survey used electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) in the past 30 days, of whom many will develop a lifelong addiction to nicotine/tobacco products<sup>ix</sup>; and

**Whereas** according to the American College Health Association – National College Health Assessment, 33.1 percent of North Dakota college students who reported using tobacco and nicotine products used them daily or almost daily in the past 3 months<sup>x</sup>; and

**Whereas** tobacco use in North Dakota imposes economic burden, with direct healthcare costs amounting to \$379 million each year, productivity losses approximating \$715 million annually, and each household paying \$970 per year in state and federal taxes from smoking-caused government expenditures<sup>xi</sup>; and

**Whereas** this resolution addresses commercial tobacco, which is different from traditional tobacco used in American Indian spiritual and ceremonial practices; and

**Whereas** the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advocates for a multi-tiered approach to tobacco control, including increasing tobacco taxes, fully funding a tobacco control program and maintaining a strong indoor smoke-free air law;

**Now therefore be it resolved**, Western Plains Public Health Board of Health supports funding a comprehensive tobacco control program at the CDC recommended levels to reduce the prevalence of tobacco use in North Dakota. Further, Western Plains Public Health Board of Health supports using money from the Master Settlement Agreement, tobacco taxes and any other relevant sources to fund the program.

John Grunseth

Name of Organization Representative

John M. Anderson

Signature of Organization Representative

11-4-24

Date

Sources:

<sup>i</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2014). *Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs*.

<sup>ii</sup> Current funding: <https://ndlegis.gov/assembly/68-2023/regular/documents/23-0233-04000.pdf>

<sup>iii</sup> Tax collections: <https://www.tax.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/news-center/publications/56th-biennial-report.pdf>

<sup>iv</sup> PDA, Inc. (2023), *The State of Tobacco Control in North Dakota: 2021 -2023*

<sup>v</sup> <https://www.ucsf.edu/news/2023/03/424991/californias-anti-smoking-push-spurs-big-savings-health-costs>

<sup>vi</sup> [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK99237/pdf/Bookshelf\\_NBK99237.pdf](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK99237/pdf/Bookshelf_NBK99237.pdf)

<sup>vii</sup> WYSAC (2022), *North Dakota Community Readiness Survey, 2022*.

<sup>viii</sup> [https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data\\_statistics/fact\\_sheets/youth\\_data/tobacco\\_use/index.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/youth_data/tobacco_use/index.htm)

<sup>ix</sup> <https://www.hhs.nd.gov/health/community/tobacco/surveillance-data>

<sup>x</sup> [chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.acha.org/wp-content/uploads/NCHA-IIIb\\_SPRING\\_2024\\_REFERENCE\\_GROUP\\_DATA\\_REPORT.pdf](chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.acha.org/wp-content/uploads/NCHA-IIIb_SPRING_2024_REFERENCE_GROUP_DATA_REPORT.pdf)

<sup>xi</sup> [https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/north\\_dakota](https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/north_dakota)