

WASHINGTON STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: C-14
(A-08)

Subject: Effective Federal Tobacco Legislation
Introduced by: Thurston-Mason County Medical Society Delegation
Referred to: Reference Committee C

1 WHEREAS, the “Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act” (S.625) has
2 been a major strategic priority for the Altria (Philip Morris) cigarette company from 2004 to
3 the present; and
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5 WHEREAS, S.625 has been cleverly written to give the appearance of public health
6 benefits, but has been filled with lethal loopholes by its Philip Morris negotiators; and
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8 WHEREAS, detailed analyses at <http://www.aaphp.org> and elsewhere show how
9 S.625, if passed, would perpetuate near-current levels of cigarette consumption for decades to
10 come; and
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12 WHEREAS, there is no scientific evidence that “reduced-exposure” cigarettes will
13 ever be significantly less harmful than current cigarettes; and
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15 WHEREAS, more effective legislation has been introduced in the U.S. Congress;
16 THEREFORE BE IT
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18 RESOLVED, that the WSMA opposes S.625 and its companion bill, H.R.1108 (New
19 HOD Policy); and BE IT FURTHER
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21 RESOLVED that the WSMA opposes labeling of any tobacco product as “reduced
22 exposure” without clear scientific evidence of reduced risk (New HOD Policy); and BE IT
23 FURTHER
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25 RESOLVED, that the WSMA communicate to the AMA and to Washington State’s
26 Congressional Delegation, its opposition to S.625, H.R.1108, and to “reduced exposure”
27 labeling without evidence of reduced risk. (Directive to Take Action)

HOUSE ACTION: ADOPTED _____ ADOPTED AS AMENDED _____
FILED _____ REFERRED _____ NOT ADOPTED _____

WSMA Policy

TOBACCO

The WSMA supports the Tobacco Addiction Coordinating Council (TACC) and its work toward the legislative adoption of the following proposals:

- 1) Requiring a special license for merchants to sell tobacco; the merchants could then be fined or their licensed revoked for selling to a minor;
- 2) Enforcing the state law prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to minors (less than age 18);
- 3) Banning cigarette vending machines;
- 4) Banning the sale of tobacco products without the appropriate federally mandated warning labels (e.g. single cigarettes);
- 5) Banning the distribution of free samples of tobacco products;
- 6) Continued tax increases on tobacco products, with revenues to be used for developing a statewide tobacco health education program;
- 7) Restrictions on smoking in the workplace;
- 8) Further restrictions on smoking in enclosed public spaces;
- 9) Banning smoking in health care facilities.
(Res 12, A-91; Res 23, C-90; Res 39, A-90; Res 7, A-89; Res 16, C-88; Res 6, A-86)

Addiction Treatment

The WSMA endorses the efforts of pro-health groups to include tobacco addiction treatment in coverage by all insurance carriers. (Res A-3, A-95)

Advertising

The WSMA supports the American Medical Association's call for a total ban on tobacco advertising. Additionally, the WSMA recommends that the Washington State legislature, counties, communities, and municipalities ban tobacco advertising.

The WSMA encourages counties, communities and municipalities to adopt the operating principle of not accepting money from tobacco companies or their subsidiaries for the support of sports or other entertainment events. (Res 41, A-90)

The WSMA encourages physicians to not distribute magazines and other materials containing cigarette advertising to their patient waiting areas. The WSMA magazine subscription service will clearly identify on their ordering form those magazines that do not accept tobacco advertising. (Res 33, A-89)

The WSMA opposes the practice of tobacco companies using the names and distinctive hallmarks of well-known organizations and celebrities, such as fashion designers, in marketing their products. (Res 6, A-86)

Cessation Programs

The WSMA encourages its members to strongly advise their smoking patients about tobacco cessation. (Res A-3, A-95)

The WSMA has established a priority of preventing tobacco-related infant mortality and illness by endorsing and actively promoting the development of programs to assist pregnant women with smoking cessation programs. (Res A-4, A-95)

Definition

The WSMA defines tobacco products as toxic and noxious substances in all forms. (Res A-2, A-93)

Education

The WSMA supports strong educational programs, from kindergarten through the 12th grade, to help pre-teens, adolescents, and young adults avoid the use of tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco. The WSMA encourages appropriate school authorities to prohibit the use of all tobacco products by students, faculty, and coaches during the school day and during other school related activities. (Res 6, A-86)

The WSMA endorses and promotes the development of programs that educate teenage women from initiating tobacco use. (Res A-4, A-95)

Legislation

The WSMA endorses legislation that restricts youth exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, restricts the advertising and promotion of tobacco products to youth, bans vending machines and free sampling of tobacco products, and bans illegal sales of tobacco products to minors. In addition, the WSMA endorses legislation that will dedicate long-term funding for a comprehensive statewide tobacco prevention and education program directed toward our youth. (Res A-4, A-95)

Non-Profit Corporations

The WSMA supports legislative measures requiring, as a condition of non-profit corporation licensure by private clubs and organizations (which permit smoking within its facilities), a bi-annual closed ballot vote of the membership as to whether the organization should prohibit smoking within its facilities. (Res 39, A-90)

Public Places

The WSMA supports measures to prohibit smoking in all public buildings and in all public businesses including, in particular, restaurants. (Res 30, A-90; Res C-4, A-93)

The WSMA supports legislation prohibiting smoking and the sale of tobacco products in health care institutions. (Res 6, A-86)

The WSMA recommends that all hospitals be no-smoking zones. (Res 5, A-86; Res A-3, A-00)

The WSMA supports legislation to prohibit smoking on all public conveyances, meaning any vehicle of a privately or publicly owned common carrier providing passenger service and including air, rail, boat, ship or bus service. (Res 26, A-86)

Regulation

The WSMA believes that the most dangerous tobacco products, such as cigarettes, should be regulated with the utmost stringency, and that these products should be labeled with the most obvious and urgent warnings. (Res C-8, A-07)

Taxes

The WSMA supports federal legislation to raise the federal excise tax on cigarettes, with revenues from the increase to be allocated to the Medicare program. (Res 6, A-86)

The WSMA also supports other increases in tobacco taxes, and urges allocation of tax revenues to be used for prevention and cessation of tobacco use and the general health care plan. (Res C-7, A-93)

Tobacco Settlement

The WSMA believes that all funds derived from the “tobacco settlement” be dedicated to tobacco related health care costs and prevention of tobacco use. (Res C-3, A-98)

WSMA Meetings

The WSMA prohibits smoking at all WSMA-sponsored meetings and supports active non-smoking policies for WSMA membership and staff. (Res 6, A-86)

The WSMA preferentially meets at establishments offering smokefree conference and meeting facilities and encourages county medical societies and other medical groups to do the same. (Res A-10, A-05; Res A-3, A-00)

The WSMA reaffirms existing policy opposing smoking. (Res A-6, A-02)