



Legislative Update

May 13, 2010

Please read and forward to your colleagues and networks!

2010 General Assembly Session Begins

Alliance to Promote Obesity and Tobacco Use Prevention Policies

The 2010 short session of the General Assembly convened this week with the primary purpose of making adjustments to the budget. The continued economic downturn has resulted in another significant budget deficit estimated at nearly \$1 billion. Tough decisions await NC lawmakers over the coming two months.

Despite the significant budget deficit, there appears to be little appetite for tax increases, including any increase in NC's cigarette tax, currently the 7th lowest in the country at \$.45/pack. However, the North Carolina Alliance for Health will continue to promote a \$1 increase in NC's cigarette tax as an option that will save lives, keep 84,600 children from starting to smoke and raise \$366.2 million in new revenue in the first year.

Alliance priorities for the 2010 short session include:

- **Tobacco- Use Prevention:**
 - Protect existing law (HB 2) which made restaurants and bars smoke-free on January 2, 2010;
 - Expand existing smoke-free law by advocating for legislation to make *all* NC worksites and public places 100% smoke-free ([Click Here](#) to sign a resolution in support of this effort);
 - Raise NC's cigarette excise tax BY at least \$1.00 and support an excise tax increase on other tobacco (non-cigarette) products to a tax rate equivalent with that of cigarettes ([Click Here](#) to sign a resolution in support of this effort);
 - Reinststitute NC's cigarette tax stamp to promote health, safety, crime prevention efforts and increased state revenue.

- **Obesity Prevention - Physical Activity/Physical Education:**
 - Require evidence-based fitness testing for students grade K-8 ([Fact Sheet](#) – will link);
 - Promote the passage of HB 901, making available Healthful Living Honors Courses to schools wishing to offer such a curriculum ([Fact Sheet](#) – will link).

- **Obesity Prevention - Nutrition:**
 - Implement and fully fund Child Nutrition Standards K-12 that would ensure all foods and beverages available in schools are healthy.
 - [Click Here](#) to sign a resolution in support of this effort.
 - [Click Here](#) for talking points/fact sheet.
 - [Click Here](#) to access the special Alliance webpage devoted to school nutrition issues and resources.

- **Built Environments:**
 - Promote the ability of local communities to support routine physical activity and healthy eating through built environment supports, including multi-modal transportation infrastructure (eg. mass transit, sidewalks, bike lanes), recreation opportunities (eg. parks, trails greenways), and food venues (eg. grocery stores, farmers' markets, community gardens). Support the integration of healthy land use (“sustainable communities”) and multi-modal transportation options (“complete streets” policies).

[Click here](#) for a more complete listing and explanation of the Alliance’s 2010 policy priorities.

This session promises to be an active one with both tobacco and obesity policy efforts and we will need *YOUR* help to make sure legislators know of the broad public support for these policy changes. Stay tuned

What *MORE* can you do to promote obesity and tobacco use prevention policies before NC’s legislative and executive branches?

Have your organization, its board members, staff and volunteers sign the Alliance’s resolutions to demonstrate your support for making North Carolina’s worksites and public places smoke-free. Access the resolution by going to the Alliance’s website at:

[Resolution Supporting the Establishment of Science-Based Nutrition Standards for all Food Offered in Schools](#)

[Resolution Supporting 100% Smoke-Free Worksites and Public Places](#)

[Resolution Supporting an Increase in the Cigarette Tax BY at Least \\$1](#)

See our website for fact sheets, talking points and other resources promoting NCAH policy priorities

www.ncallianceforhealth.org

For additional information about the North Carolina Alliance for Health, please contact Alliance Executive Director Lisa Familo at lisa.familo@ncallianceforhealth.org;

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