



RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR INCREASING GEORGIA'S CIGARETTE TAX

WHEREAS the state of Georgia is facing a tremendous budget deficit and every state agency is facing significant cuts that will affect all Georgians, and

WHEREAS tobacco-caused illnesses cost the state more than **\$1.8 billion** per year, including major expenditures for Medicaid, PeachCare and many health concerns, and

WHEREAS 19% of Georgia's high school students smoke cigarettes, and

WHEREAS over **10,000** Georgians die every year from tobacco-related illnesses – that is one out of every six deaths, and

WHEREAS the lack of health insurance and access to health care places a terrible health and financial burden on many working families in Georgia, and

WHEREAS a \$1 increase in the Georgia cigarette tax would generate at least \$335M in new revenue, protecting children and families from drastic health care cuts, and

WHEREAS studies demonstrate that combining cigarette tax increases with full funding of tobacco prevention and cessation programs substantially reduces smoking, particularly among teens, and saves states many millions of dollars in health care costs, and

WHEREAS this resolution was reviewed and found compatible with the Comprehensive Cancer Plan for Georgia which was signed by Governor Sonny Perdue, and

Be it therefore RESOLVED that the undersigned organization endorses a \$1 increase in the state cigarette tax in order to:

- Reduce teen smoking
- Make progress toward fully funding the state's tobacco prevention and cessation program to the level recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Protect children on PeachCare and Georgians who rely on Medicaid from being cut off from the health care they need, and aid working families seeking health coverage

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the undersigned organization will:

- **Inform its members and the general public of its endorsement of this Resolution.**
- **Inform the Governor and members of the General Assembly of its endorsement of this Resolution, to the extent permitted by law, and urge its members to do the same.**

Name of Organization _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____

Title _____

Please return to: Beth Cope at (866) 290-1681(fax) or bethcope@talkingheadsmedia.com. For more information call (404)786-0503.