

Colleagues,

At the 2015 Winter Meeting, the Chapter Council voted unanimously to advocate for an increase in the tax on cigarettes and tobacco products. It was our intent that the revenues generated by this tax increase were to be utilized to adequately fund Alabama Medicaid. The other tangible benefits of such a tax increase would be to reduce the use of cigarettes and tobacco products, decrease the overall cost of healthcare, and improve the health of our patients. Subsequently, the Council voted to join a coalition of other professional societies (Pediatrics, Family Medicine, Cardiologists, etc) and health advocacy organizations to urge the legislature to pass a meaningful increase in the tax on cigarettes and tobacco products. The official name of our coalition is Alabama Healthy Change and its website is www.alabamahealthychange.com.

I and the other members of the Council urge that you write, call, and/or e-mail your senator and representative and encourage them to pass legislation to increase the tax on cigarettes and tobacco products. I have attached a list with addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of the legislature for your use. If you do not know who is your legislator, please use this link <http://capwiz.com/state-al/home/>

I have also attached a template letter for your use. If you prefer to create your own personalized letter, the key points to emphasize are:

- 1) Vote YES for tobacco tax - most important
- 2) A meaningful tax increase is both a health and financial win for Alabama
- 3) When tobacco taxes are increased, healthcare costs go down and revenues go up
- 4) The most effective way to reduce tobacco use - especially among kids - is to increase the price significantly.

Please get involved and contact your legislator **ASAP** !

Thanks !

Wick

Geaux Tigers

Attachments:

NOTE: The links below will direct your browser to the location where the documents attached to this email have been posted.

[2015 Alabama Legislative List](#)

[Tobacco Tax increase Letter Template](#)