

BEFORE THE BOARD OF HEALTH
SPOKANE REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT

RESOLUTION #12-11

RE: A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE TO RESTORE LOCAL CONTROL OF RETAIL TOBACCO SALES AND PROMOTIONS.

This measure would request that the Washington State Legislature repeal preemption in the Youth Access to Tobacco law (RCW 70.155), and restore the right of local governments to enact and enforce tobacco-related laws.

WHEREAS, tobacco use is the most preventable cause of premature death, disability and disease in the United States; and

WHEREAS, annually, an estimated 443,000 people nationwide and 7,600 people in Washington state and 590 adults in Spokane County die prematurely from smoking or exposure to secondhand smoke; and

WHEREAS, Washington's Youth Access Law preempts local governments from adopting or enforcing regulations related to retail tobacco sales and promotion; and

WHEREAS, local governments have the right and responsibility to adopt laws that protect the health and safety of their citizens; and

WHEREAS, the needs of a specific community may be different from those of the state as a whole. Local policymakers live in the communities in which they serve, so can be more responsive to public sentiment; and

WHEREAS, since implementation of the state's comprehensive Tobacco Prevention and Control Program, youth cigarette smoking declined dramatically from 1999 to 2004. In recent years, reductions in smoking rates have stalled despite media campaigns and price increases; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature eliminated all funding for the state's comprehensive Tobacco Prevention and Control Program, effective July 2011. As a result of this dramatic funding cut, the state no longer funds anti-tobacco media campaigns or local tobacco prevention and cessation programs in schools or through local governments and community organizations. The power to create tobacco prevention policy at the local level has the potential to reduce the risk that smoking rates increase as they have in other states after comprehensive programs disappear; and

WHEREAS, rates of youth smoking in Washington state are unacceptably high: about 13% of 10th graders smoke cigarettes (16.6% in Spokane County) and 50 kids start smoking every day; and

WHEREAS, tobacco companies spend an estimated \$122.5 million each year to market products in Washington and have recently introduced tobacco products that appeal to kids because of their fruit and candy flavoring and colorful packaging; and

WHEREAS, survey data found that 6800 Spokane County middle and high school students, including almost one in four 12th graders (23%) used cigarettes or other tobacco products in the past month; and

WHEREAS, the tobacco epidemic in Washington state has different characteristics in different locations. A one-size-fits-all approach may not work in all cases, so communities need the ability to adopt approaches that work for their populations; and

WHEREAS, state laws that preempt local regulation of tobacco sales prevent local governments from enacting local laws that are tailored to meet the needs of their communities and have a devastating effect on tobacco control efforts and on the public health of the state's residents and workers; and

WHEREAS, Congress has recognized the vital role that states and localities play in restricting youth access to tobacco products, and in June 2009 enacted legislation expressly permitting states and localities to regulate cigarette advertising and promotions; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services made the elimination of state laws that preempt stronger tobacco control laws a national goal in Healthy People 2020; and

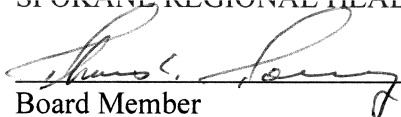
WHEREAS, national organizations, such as American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, American Public Health Association, Americans for Non-Smoker's Rights, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Association of County and City Health Officials, and the National Association of Local Boards of Health, oppose state preemption of local tobacco control laws;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Spokane Regional Health District's Board of Health calls upon the Washington State Legislature to repeal preemption in the Youth Access to Tobacco law (RCW 70.155), and restore the right of local governments to enact and enforce tobacco-related laws.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Spokane Regional Health District's Board of Health strongly encourages other local Boards of Health in Washington to adopt similar resolutions.

Signed this 25th day of October, 2012 in Spokane, Washington.

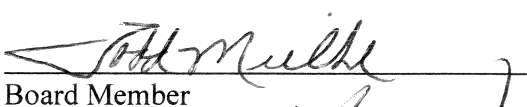
SPOKANE REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH


Board Member

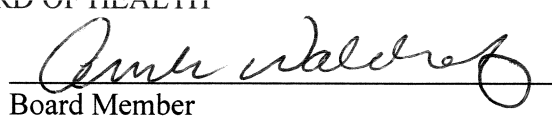

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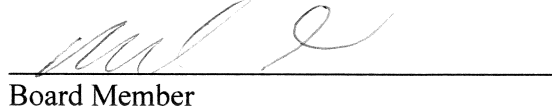

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