

February 13, 2018

- I am Tom Dale, County Commissioner for Canyon County, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees and President of the Idaho Association of District Boards of Health.
- In June 2017, the Idaho Association of District Boards of Health passed a resolution that supports raising the minimum age of legal access and use of tobacco products, including electronic vapor products, in Idaho to 21 years of age.
- It is important to decrease the access to high school aged "children" from tobacco that they can easily get from adult high school students.
- Here is a quote from the Republican Senator from Maine who wrote their bill. This is from a news story: Senator Paul Davis, a Republican who wrote the bill, said the Governor's remarks showed that he had missed the point of the legislation. "People who join the military don't have 15-year-old kids following them around and being impressed by their actions," Mr. Davis told reporters after the Senate's vote on Wednesday. "It's about the availability of cigarettes in schools."
- The public health districts spend \$750,000 per year in millennium fund dollars to try to get people to quit a habit they should have never started. This is a drop in the bucket compared to what Idaho spends on healthcare for tobacco related illness: more than \$508 million annually.
- Although the subject is not well researched because raising the age is relatively new, I think this study from Needham, Mass. is encouraging: "In 2005, Needham, Massachusetts implemented the law to raise the tobacco sales age to 21. They were the first town in the country to do so, and 4 years after the legislation was implemented smoking in Needham high school decreased by 47%. In 2006, before the legislation was fully enforced, Needham had a 13% smoking rate compared to a 15% rate in neighboring communities. In 2010, the youth smoking rate in Needham decreased to 6.7%, while the surrounding communities rate only decreased to 12.4%." Published in the American Journal of Public Health:
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4202948/>

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In Conclusion, on behalf of the Idaho Association of District Boards of Health, I ask you to support S 1255.

WHEREAS, Smoking-caused health costs in Idaho total more than \$508 million per year, including more than \$100.5 million in state and federal Medicaid expenditures, and raising the age of legal access to tobacco products to age 21 will likely decrease overall tobacco use rates, which in turn will likely lead to reduced future tobacco-related health care costs², and

WHEREAS, The tobacco industry aggressively markets and promotes its products to continue recruiting young adults as new consumers. Despite legal settlements and laws, the tobacco companies still spend \$9.6 billion per year to market their deadly and addictive products, and they continue to entice and addict America's youth. According to the U.S. Surgeon General, the more young people are exposed to cigarette advertising and promotional activities, the more likely they are to smoke. More than 80% of underage smokers choose brands from among the top three most heavily advertised⁷, and

WHEREAS, The Institute of Medicine concluded that raising the age of legal access to tobacco products to 21 years of age will likely prevent or delay initiation of tobacco use by adolescents and young adults, immediately improve the health of adolescents and young adults, improve maternal, fetal, and infant health outcomes, and substantially reduce smoking prevalence and smoking-related mortality over time. The Institute of Medicine also predicted that raising the age now to 21 nationwide would result in approximately 249,000 fewer premature deaths, 45,000 fewer deaths from lung cancer, and 4.2 million fewer years of life lost for those born between 2000 and 2019⁸.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho Association of Boards of Health supports raising the minimum age of legal access and use of tobacco products, including electronic vapor products, in Idaho to 21 years of age. District public health staff will actively engage in local and statewide efforts to support this public health policy.

1 – U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. [The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/sg/50th-anniversary/index.htm). (http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/sg/50th-anniversary/index.htm)

Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014.

2 – The Toll of Tobacco in Idaho. (2015). Retrieved from www.tobaccofreekids.org.

3 – Knox, B. (2016). Increasing the Minimum Legal Sale Age for Tobacco Products to 21. Retrieved from www.tobaccofreekids.org.

4 – Idaho State Department of Education, Idaho Youth Risk Behavior Survey. (2015). Retrieved from <https://sde.idaho.gov/student-engagement/shared/2015-Youth-Risk-Behavior-Survey-Results.pdf>.

5- American Academy of Pediatrics, Julius B. Richmond Center of Excellence. Tools and Information, Tobacco 21. Retrieved from <http://www2.aap.org/richmondcenter/Tobacco21.html>.

6 – U.S. Army. Stand-To! Edition November 20, 2012. Retrieved from <http://www.army.mil/standto/archive/issue.php?issue=2012-11-20>.

7 – Tobacco Industry Marketing. Retrieved from http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/tobacco_industry/marketing/index.htm.

8 – Institute of Medicine. Public Health Implications of Raising the Minimum Age of Legal Access to Tobacco Products. Washington, D.C: The National Academies of Press, 2015. doi: 10.17226/18997.

16-03: Resolution to Support Raising the Minimum Age of Legal Access and Use of Tobacco Products in Idaho to Age 21

Res. 16-03

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT RAISING THE MINIMUM AGE OF LEGAL ACCESS AND USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS IN IDAHO TO AGE 21

WHEREAS, Tobacco remains the leading cause of preventable disease and premature death in the U.S., and one of the largest drivers of health care costs¹, and

WHEREAS, Each year approximately 1,800 Idahoans die from tobacco use and 1,100 Idaho youth become new regular, daily smokers, of whom one-third will die prematurely because of this addiction², and

WHEREAS, 95% of current adult smokers began using tobacco before age 21, and the ages of 18 to 21 are a critical period when many experimental smokers transition to regular, daily use³, and

WHEREAS, Adolescents are more likely to obtain cigarettes from social sources than through commercial transactions, and youth who reported receiving offers of cigarettes from friends were more likely to initiate smoking and progress to experimentation³. Raising the legal age of access to 21 would reduce the likelihood that young people would have access to tobacco products through social sources, and

WHEREAS, A growing number of youth and adults are using electronic vapor products, also known as e-cigarettes or electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), which provide a way to deliver the addictive nicotine substance without burning tobacco. In Idaho, e-cigarettes are the most commonly used "tobacco" product among Idaho students: 24.8% of students used an electronic vapor product in the past 30 days and nearly half of all Idaho high school students have used an electronic vapor product at least once during their lifetime⁴, and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics now strongly recommends the minimum age to purchase tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, should be increased to age 21 nationwide⁵, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Public Health Command says soldiers who smoke are less combat ready and take longer to heal and the U.S. Department of Defense is taking steps to ban all tobacco sales on military bases⁶, and

WHEREAS, 131 cities in nine states, and the State of Hawaii have already raised the minimum age of legal access to tobacco products, and several other states are currently considering legislation to do so, and