

A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE A DEDICATED PORTION OF TOBACCO SETTLEMENT PAYMENTS ANNUALLY TO A STATEWIDE, COMPREHENSIVE TOBACCO REDUCTION AND PREVENTION PROGRAM IN MICHIGAN

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 9, 1999

WHEREAS, the single most preventable cause of death in Washtenaw County is tobacco, taking in excess of 100 lives every year; and

WHEREAS, tobacco use kills about 17,000 people in Michigan each year; and

WHEREAS, over 15,000 of these deaths are people who became addicted to tobacco – most of them before the age of 20 years old; and

WHEREAS, almost 2000 of these deaths are nonsmokers who die as a result of their exposure to secondhand smoke in the home and workplace; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan health care costs due to smoking are \$2.58 billion per year that includes \$530 million per year in Medicaid costs; and

WHEREAS, an additional \$1.6 billion is spent annually on tobacco-related labor costs, lost productivity, absenteeism, cigarette-related fires, tobacco-related maintenance and cleaning costs; and

WHEREAS, on November 19, 1998 former Attorney General Frank Kelley settled Michigan's lawsuit against the tobacco companies, and approved and signed a multi-state agreement (MSA) with the tobacco industry; and

WHEREAS, Michigan's share of the scheduled payments from the tobacco companies is \$8.53 billion over the next 25 years, an average of \$340 million per year; and

WHEREAS, in Michigan the current annual budget for tobacco control is about \$5.5 million; and

WHEREAS, this small amount seriously challenges the ability of the program to effectively accomplish its objectives in counteracting the tobacco industry's tactics to normalize tobacco use.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners recommends and urges the Michigan State Legislature and Governor Engler to:

- create a sustained, comprehensive tobacco use reduction and
- prevention program funded from the multi-state settlement money;
- fund such a program at a minimum of \$75 million per year;
- place the settlement payments in a special Tobacco Prevention fund
- earmarked for tobacco use reduction and prevention;
- appropriate the first \$75 million allocation for the 1999-2000 fiscal
- year; and
- that all remaining tobacco settlement funds be used for public health
- services

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all state and federal legislative representatives and to the Governor of the State of Michigan

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