

MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF PREVENTION

PROFESSIONALS AND ADVOCATES

POSITION STATEMENT ON TOBACCO CONTROL

The Maryland Association of Prevention Professionals and Advocates (MAPPA) support

policies and laws, which reduce tobacco addiction among adults and young people.

***To reduce the numbers of young people who begin smoking***

**MAPPA supports significantly raising the price of tobacco products through**

**taxation.**

* For every 10% increase in the price of tobacco, use among young people falls 7%.
* The Institute of Medicine, the US Surgeon General’s Office, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, and others all support higher tobacco taxes as the most effective way to discourage teen smoking.

**MAPPA supports the establishment of the recommended program element budgets for a comprehensive tobacco use prevention program funded at levels suggested by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ($30 million - $78 million annually in Maryland)**.

* In August 1999, the CDC issued best practices for reducing tobacco use based on successful programs in Massachusetts and California.
* MAPPA endorses these best practices to guide Maryland’s tobacco use prevention and cessation programs.

**MAPPA supports that ALL tobacco products should be out of reach of youth.**

* Tobacco products (cigarettes, cigars, chew, snuff, bidis, pipes, tobacco, rolling papers, blunt wrappers) should be behind the counter; not ON the counter.

**MAPPA supports product packages providing restrictions on tobacco advertising such as risks of addiction, miscarriage, and information on toxic components of cigarettes (CDC, 2007)**; *Companies have long targeted their advertising at youth*:

* The use of tombstone tobacco ads in commercial areas
* Banning of tobacco ads in residential area where children congregate
* Elimination of self-service/point-of-purchase displays

**MAPPA supports comprehensive laws to reduce youth (under 18) access to tobacco**.

* Local governments should enforce laws that prohibit the sale of tobacco to youth.
* The majority of adult smokers started smoking by the age of 18 (CDC, 2007).
* Every day, an estimated 3,900 young people under the age of 18 try their first cigarette (CDC, 2007).
* Tobacco license holders should face fines and eventual suspension/revocation of their license for repeated illegal sales to youth.
* The sale of tobacco through vending machines should be prohibited.

**MAPPA supports local government authority over the distribution, marketing and**

**sale of tobacco products and opposes state preemption laws**.

The tobacco industry’s lobby has been a powerful force in Annapolis and Washington. One international Tobacco Institute document from 1992 states, “*our ultimate goal…is preemption of local anti-tobacco ordinances. The other actions I have outlined are necessary holding efforts to limit local damage while we work vigorously for local preemption*.” Local governments can have the most impact in reducing tobacco use because the industry does not have a lock on local government officials.

***Secondhand Smoke***

**MAPPA supports smoke free public places and worksites including restaurants and**

**bars. We also support Maryland’s Clean Indoor Air Act of 2007 and would support further legislation impacting all industries.** **Maryland made most workplaces smoke free in 1995. Only hospitality employees**

**and volunteers are left unprotected from secondhand smoke.**

* Secondhand smoke exposure is the third leading cause of preventable death, killing 1,000 Marylanders every year (ACS, 2007).
* Secondhand smoke contains more than 250 toxins and cancer-causing chemicals, such as carbon monoxide, formaldehyde, arsenic, benzene, and lead (ACS, 2007).
* The economic costs of exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke due to illness and death in Maryland were $597 million in 2005 according to Johns Hopkins study. Economics studies show that smokefree laws do not harm business. (ACS, 2007).
* There is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke; brief exposure can cause harm (ACS, 2007).
* Ventilation systems do not work in removing the toxins in secondhand smoke (ACS, 2007).
* The only way to protect nonsmokers from the dangerous chemicals in secondhand smoke is to eliminate smoking indoors (ACS, 2007).

**MAPPA supports insurance coverage of smoking cessation services and**

**pharmacotherapy**.

* Anyone wanting to quit tobacco use should have every medical opportunity to do so and should not be limited by lack of insurance coverage.

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