RESOLUTION TO REDUCE YOUTH SMOKING

WHEREAS, Every year over 16,400 Wisconsin children become addicted to tobacco of whom more than one-third will die prematurely because of this addiction; and,

WHEREAS, Significanty increasing Wisconsin's excise tax on cigarettes would drastically reduce the number of children who become addicted to tobacco, save over a billion dollars in health care costs, and provide hundreds of millions of dollars per year in additional state revenues.

WHEREAS, Fully funding the state's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program would effectively reduce smoking rates through public education efforts, counter marketing, community and school-based programs and providing services to help smokers quit.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, That, in an effort to effectively reduce the number of Wisconsin children who become addicted to tobacco, the undersigned organization supports:

- Increasing the Wisconsin excise tax on cigarettes by at least $1.00 per pack with the revenue generated being directed to fund the Medical Assistance Program and Wisconsin's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program.
- Assuring that in order to most effectively reduce the burden of tobacco, Wisconsin's comprehensive Tobacco Prevention and Control Program is funded at $31 million per year, which is equal to the Centers for Disease Control minimum funding recommendation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the undersigned organization:

- Will inform its members and, if possible, the general public, of its endorsement of this Resolution.
- Agrees to be added to a list of supporters which will be utilized in educational efforts for this initiative.

Respectfully submitted on February 20, 2007:

Robert Regan, Chairperson
Dr. John Jinkins

Dr. John Jinkins

Thomas Mueller

Bill Sievert

Dr. Mike Wolkomir

Committee on Health