



June 4, 2018

RE: Support for increased funding from the Fund for a Healthy Nevada for tobacco prevention and control

Dear GMAC Committee Members,

As the voice of public health in Nevada, the Nevada Public Health Association (NPHA) and its members would like to express our support for increased funding for state and local tobacco prevention and control programs from the Fund for a Healthy Nevada – dollars that exist only as result of the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement signed by Attorneys General from Nevada, 45 other states, and the District of Columbia in 1998.

Despite steady progress made by local health authorities in Nevada in reducing both youth and adult smoking rates, smoking will be responsible for an estimated 4,100 deaths and over \$1 billion in health care costs directly caused by smoking in our state this year. Over 100,000 Nevada worker continue to be exposed to second-hand smoke as a result of exemptions to the Nevada Clean Indoor Air Act approved by voters over a decade ago. Finally, Nevada residents' annual tax burden from smoking-caused government expenditures is a staggering \$803 per household.

The 2014 Surgeon General's Report on *The Health Consequences of Smoking* concludes that "proven tobacco control strategies and programs, in combination with enhanced strategies to rapidly eliminate the use of cigarettes and other combustible, or burned, tobacco products, will help us achieve a society free of tobacco-related death and disease." As such, expanding tobacco control and prevention programs and services throughout Nevada remains a high priority for NPHA

If there is any information that NPHA can provide on the return on investment from tobacco control and prevention in Nevada, please let us know by contacting myself, or the lead of our Advocacy and Policy Committee John Packham at (775) 784-1235 or jpackham@med.unr.edu. Acting together, we can end the scourge of tobacco in our state and improve the health of all Nevadans.

Sincerely,

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President, Nevada Public Health Association
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