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**WORKING FOR A
TOBACCO-FREE
NEVADA**

**Kendall Stagg, Executive Director
Nevada Tobacco Prevention Coalition**

**Assembly Joint Resolution 10
Friday, April 18, 2003**

**775.333.9431 (H)
775.250.7626 (C)**

Failing To Pass AJR10 Would Be A "Penny-Wise, Pound-Foolish."

The evidence is clear that tobacco prevention and cessation programs are part of the solution to the fiscal crisis states are facing. Those states that choose wisely to invest in tobacco prevention despite tight budgets will reap the benefits of fewer kids smoking, lives saved and taxpayer dollars saved by reducing smoking-caused health care costs. Studies have shown that the California and Massachusetts tobacco prevention programs were saving up to \$3 in health care costs for every dollar spent. States that make shortsighted decisions to cut tobacco prevention pay a steep price in lives and dollars.

When budgets are tight, it makes sense to look for ways to save money. Tobacco control programs not only save money but they save lives as well. With more Nevadan's dying from tobacco-related diseases than the next five leading, preventable causes of death combined, we must remain true to the intent of the settlement and fully fund programs to promote public health and discourage tobacco use. States can save lives now by investing in these prevention and cessation programs, and that is a big investment in the future.

It is shortsighted for Nevada to cut tobacco prevention programs because tobacco use costs Nevada millions of dollars every year in health care costs under Medicaid and other health care programs. Skyrocketing Medicaid costs have been one of the causes of state budget deficits. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates annual smoking-caused health care costs in Nevada at more than \$450 million, including more than \$96 million Medicaid.

This year, Nevada has even more of an obligation to fund tobacco prevention programs because of the added revenue generated by pending cigarette tax increases.

Too many states are engaging in fiscal malpractice by mortgaging their futures. These states are raiding tobacco funds to cover budget shortfalls, and denying themselves a sound investment in their citizens' health.

Failing to pass a Constitutional amendment to protect the MSA dollars would be a penny wise and pound foolish. Please, help us keep the promise: Tobacco money for tobacco prevention. **Vote "YES" on AJR10.**

- American Cancer Society
- American Heart Association
- American Lung Association
- Americans for Nonsmokers Rights
- Barbara Greenspun
- Women's Care Center
- Bureau of Alcohol & Drug Abuse
- BEST Coalition
- Carson City Tobacco Prevention Coalition
- Carson Tahoe Hospital
- Tobacco Cessation Program
- Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids
- Clark County Health District
- CLASSI Publication
- Dan Hart & Associates
- FaTSOO
- Girl Scout Councils of Nevada
- HealthSmart
- JOIN Together Northern Nevada
- Moore Iacofano Golstann, Inc.
- Nevada Department of Education
- Nevada Hispanic Services
- Nevada Nicotine Treatment Center
- Nevada Public Health Foundation
- Nevada State Health Division
- Tobacco Control Program
- Nevada State Medical Association
- Non-Smoking Alliance
- Ovarian Cancer Alliance of Nevada
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Salud en Accion
- Sista to Sista
- St. Mary's Health Network
- Sierra Health Network
- American Medical Association
- SmokeLess States Program
- Southern Nevada AHEC
- Stop Tobacco Use In Clark Co.
- Teachers Health Trust
- UNLV School of Dentistry
- UNR Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering
- Vitality Center
- Washoe Co. District Health Dept.
- Tobacco Control Program
- Washoe Co. Tobacco Prevention Coalition
- WestCare Nevada
- XPOZ

...Partial List.

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ASSEMBLY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
DATE: 4/18/03 ROOM: 316 EXHIBIT D
SUBMITTED BY: KENDALL STAGG