



**TO PROMOTE A COMPREHENSIVE,  
EVIDENCE-BASED NATIONAL TOBACCO CONTROL POLICY**

Adopted by SOPHE Board of Trustees  
6/8/11

WHEREAS, Cigarette smoking remains the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, resulting in an estimated 443,000 premature deaths and \$193 billion in direct health-care costs and lost productivity<sup>1</sup>; and

WHEREAS, 440,000 deaths each year are caused by smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke, and approximately 50% of all long-term smokers are killed by smoking-related diseases<sup>2</sup>, and

WHEREAS, No safe level of exposure to tobacco smoke exists; any exposure to tobacco smoke, including an occasional cigarette or temporary exposure to secondhand smoke, is harmful; damage from tobacco smoke is immediate; smoking longer means more damage; and cigarettes are designed for addiction<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Youth and adult tobacco use prevalence has declined from 1997-2004, yet the prevalence of adult cigarette smokers has not changed significantly in the past five years (approximately 20.6%)<sup>4</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Over 2.8 million of youth under 18 years of age are current smokers; 90% of all current adult smokers began before the age of 18 years; and more than one third of all youth that try cigarettes in high school will become daily smokers before leaving high school<sup>5</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Persons with household incomes near or below the poverty level, have low educational attainment, and/or are unemployed have a significantly higher prevalence of smoking than those with higher incomes and more education<sup>6</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Evidence- and practice-based strategies have been proven to reduce tobacco use and prevent tobacco initiation, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommended MAPPS strategies (Media, Access, Point of Purchase, Pricing and Social Services and Support)<sup>7</sup>, and CDC's *Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs-2007*<sup>8</sup>.

WHEREAS, In June 2009, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act was signed, giving the FDA authority to regulate the content, marketing, and sale of tobacco products<sup>9</sup>.

THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, That SOPHE and its chapters will urge the Administration and Congress to develop and enact bipartisan comprehensive, sustainable, effective and fully-funded tobacco control legislation, which, at a minimum, includes evidence-based strategies that improve behaviors by changing community environments. Successful, evidence-based strategies include programs that:

- a) Ensure that the tobacco industry advertising is consistent with federal law;
- b) Encourage smoke free or 100% tobacco free policies on all school campuses;
- c) Restrict sales and advertising to minors;
- d) Target education and support to lower socioeconomic populations and include materials that are sensitive to health literacy, language, and cultural/ethnic differences;
- e) Support the use of tobacco quit lines and other evidence-based cessation programs; and be it further

RESOLVED, That SOPHE will work with the Coalition of National Health Education Organizations (CNHEO), SOPHE chapters, and other key groups to develop a national plan for comprehensive tobacco control prevention and cessation that incorporates evidence-based strategies to protect children, youth and adults; and be it further

RESOLVED, That SOPHE will advocate for local and regional SOPHE chapters to adopt their own resolutions addressing tobacco control policy and to provide continuing education and learning opportunities for members at the chapter level; and be it further

RESOLVED, That SOPHE will actively participate, along with the chapters, in coalitions at the national and local levels to educate the public about proposed policies for comprehensive tobacco control; and be it further

RESOLVED, That SOPHE will work with health educators to reduce access to and attractiveness of tobacco products to children by supporting retailers to comply with FDA requirements under the 2009 Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act<sup>9</sup>; and be it further

Resolved, that SOPHE will advocate to the Administration and the Congress to appropriate federal funding for comprehensive tobacco prevention strategies in all 50 states.

## **REFERENCES**

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Cigarette Smoking - United States, 1965—2008. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. Vol. 60 No. 01;109-113.

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS). How tobacco Smoke Causes Disease: The Biology and Behavioral Basis for Smoking –Attributable Disease. A report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, GA: US Dept. of Health and Human Services, Executive Summary. 2010.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS). How tobacco Smoke Causes Disease: The Biology and Behavioral Basis for Smoking –Attributable Disease. A report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, GA: US Dept. of Health and Human Services, Fact Sheet. 2010.

<sup>4</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Cigarette Smoking - United States, 1965—2008. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. Vol. 60 No. 01;109-113.

<sup>5</sup> Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. (2010, June 16). *Tobacco Use Among Youth*. Retrieved January 5, 2011, from <http://www.tobaccofreekids.org>.

<sup>6</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Health Disparities and Inequalities Report – United States, 2011. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. Supplement. Vol. 60 Supplement.

<sup>7</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About MAPPS Strategies. Retrieved June 24, 2011, from <http://www.cdc.gov/CommunitiesPuttingPreventiontoWork/strategies/index.htm>

<sup>8</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs-2007*. Retrieved June 24, 2011, from [www.cdc.gov/tobacco/stateandcommunity/best\\_practices /index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/stateandcommunity/best_practices/index.htm)

<sup>9</sup>Family Smoking and Prevention Control Act, HR 1256. Retrieved June 24, 2011, from [http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d111:H.R.1256:](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d111:H.R.1256)