

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 159

To express the sense of the Senate regarding the role of tobacco in leading to addiction, disease, and premature death among children and teenagers, and the role of increased excise taxes in reducing tobacco use by children and teenagers.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 7 (legislative day, JULY 10), 1995

Mr. BRADLEY (for himself, Mr. HATFIELD, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. SIMON, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. SIMPSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance

RESOLUTION

To express the sense of the Senate regarding the role of tobacco in leading to addiction, disease, and premature death among children and teenagers, and the role of increased excise taxes in reducing tobacco use by children and teenagers.

Whereas more than 3,000,000 American children and teenagers smoke cigarettes, and every 30 seconds a child in the United States smokes for the first time;

Whereas about 90 percent of new smokers start smoking when they are age 18 or younger;

Whereas longitudinal research has indicated that tobacco use among children and teenagers has risen dramatically over the last 4 years;

Whereas tobacco causes heart disease, strokes, lung cancer, throat cancer, emphysema, and numerous other diseases, and kills one out of every three long-term users;

Whereas tobacco causes the premature death of well over 400,000 Americans every year—more than alcohol, heroin, crack, automobile and airplane accidents, homicides, suicides, and AIDS combined;

Whereas numerous researchers have concluded that children's and teenagers' use of tobacco decreases significantly when the price of tobacco increases;

Whereas one study has recently concluded that a small increase in the excise tax on cigarettes would save thousands of lives each year;

Whereas the American Medical Association has recommended that excise taxes on tobacco products should be dramatically increased to help deter young people from becoming addicted; and

Whereas the American Cancer Society has stated that raising tobacco taxes is one of the most effective ways to rapidly and significantly reduce tobacco use by young people:
Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—
- 2 (1) tobacco use among children and teenagers
- 3 has been shown to lead to addiction, disease, and
- 4 premature death;

4 (3) the Federal excise tax on tobacco products
5 should be increased in order to protect the health of
6 children and teenagers; and

7 (4) revenues raised by increasing the excise tax
8 on tobacco products should be used in part to help
9 finance Federal health programs.

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