

TOBACCO FUND POSITION PAPER

WHEREAS 25% of the United States population continues to smoke.¹

WHEREAS smoking is the single most important preventable cause of death, implicated in one out of every six deaths and accounting for 430,000 deaths annually.^{2,5, 7}

WHEREAS nicotine is a highly addictive substance which increases adverse health problems and costs for both the smoker and those exposed to environmental tobacco smoke.^{4,7}

WHEREAS environmental tobacco smoke contains 40 known carcinogens and 400 additives that contribute to many cancers, heart disease and respiratory problems; 37,000-40,000 nonsmokers die each year from cardiovascular disease.⁴

WHEREAS 40% of US Children are exposed to tobacco smoke in the home, placing them at risk for sudden infant death syndrome, ear infections, and allergic conditions including asthma.³

WHEREAS about 20% of pregnant women smoke throughout their pregnancies placing the fetus at risk for low birth weight, prematurity, and spontaneous abortion.^{3,6,7}

WHEREAS nicotine addiction is associated with decreased hearing, eyesight, and bone density resulting in increased fractures for all age groups.³

WHEREAS annual direct medical care costs for smoking-related illnesses are approximately \$50 billion.^{3,7}

WHEREAS tobacco is a cash agriculture crop for selected states.⁸

WHEREAS the tobacco industry has, in the past successfully influenced legislative bodies at all levels.^{8,9}

THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS HEREBY RESOLVES TO SUPPORT LEGISLATIVE POLICIES TO DESIGNATE TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUNDS FOR:

- * Increased smoking prevention programs for adolescents and young adults.
- * Enforcement of laws penalizing the sale and advertisement of tobacco products to minors.
- * Enhanced protection against environmental tobacco smoke in the workplace and public areas.
- * Increased accessible free smoking cessation programs for all age groups,
- * Research and development of alternative agriculture crops for tobacco growing states.

* Prevent the possibility of tobacco industry legislative influence by forming private foundations or trusts comprised of health professionals to oversee expenditure of tobacco settlement funds.

References

1. Centers for Disease Control. Tobacco Use-United States, 1900-1999. **Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report November 5, 1999** 48:43 986-982
2. American Cancer Society. **Cancer Facts and Figures-1999** Atlanta, GA.
3. American Lung Association http://www.lungusa.org/tobacco/older_factsheet.html 11/23/99
4. American Heart Association. **1999 Heart and Stroke Statistical Update** Dallas, TX.
5. Centers for Disease Control. Cigarette Smoking Among Adults-United States, 1997 **Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report**, November 5, 1999 48:42 993-996
6. Luce, J.M. (1998). Maternal smoking and infant lung function. **American Journal of Respiratory Critical Care Medicine**, 158 (3), 689-690.
7. Hasan, S.U. (1996). Cigarette smoking and health. American Thoracic Society. **American Journal of Respiratory Critical Care Medicine**, 153(2), 861-865.
8. Grise, V.N. (1995). U.S. tobacco farming trends Tobacco STO/TBS 230. **USDA Economic Research Service**, April 1995.
9. Torry, S. (10/30/98) Washington Post: Tobacco Special Report Tobacco's Lobbying Outlays Soared in '98 p. A10 www.washingtonpost.com/wp-sr...mtobacco/stories/outlays103098.htm.
10. Baker, P. & Torry, S. (6/16/98) Washington Post Tobacco Special Report: Clinton Scolds Tobacco Lobby for Ad Campaign p. A04 www.washingtonpost.com/wp-sr...gterm/tobacco/stories/ads061698.htm.

Authored by the Practice Committee and Approved by the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners May, 2000

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS
Administration: PO Box 12846 * Austin, TX 78711 * 512-442-4262 * Fax 512-442-6469 *
admin@aanp.org
Health Policy: PO Box 40130 * Washington, DC 20016 * 202-966-6414 * Fax 202-966-2856 *

dcoffice@aanp.org
Web site: www.aanp.org

(c) American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, 2000