

TOBACCO USE 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, respiratory problems, and heart disease.⁴

WHEREAS an estimated 37,000-40,000 nonsmokers die each year from cardiovascular disease, alone, as a result of environmental tobacco smoke.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, limited eye sight secondary to increased cataract formation, and decreased 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 chewing tobacco is carcinogenic.²

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:

- * Urge members to include comprehensive tobacco use screening and cessation advice in all clinical encounters.
- * Continue to promote consumer and professional educational programs and publications dealing with management of nicotine addiction.
- * Support increase smoking prevention programs for adolescents and young adults.
- * Promote enforcement of laws penalizing the sale and advertisement of tobacco products to

minors.

* Advocate for enhanced protection against environmental tobacco smoke in the workplace and all public areas.

* Promote increase accessible free smoking cessation programs for all socioeconomic groups across the lifespan.

* Campaign against the possibility of tobacco industry legislative influence by advocating for private foundations or trusts comprised of health professionals to oversee expenditure of tobacco settlement funds.

References

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