

2017 DAY AT THE CAPITOL RAISE THE AGE – TOBACCO 21

RAISE THE AGE

Tobacco 21 – Increase the Age of Sale for Tobacco Products & E-cigarettes

Every year tobacco use COSTS Illinois nearly \$2 BILLION in Medicaid spending

Tobacco 21 helps keep tobacco out of schools and kids' social networks

- The majority of underage smokers rely on social sources for tobacco; however, 90 percent of those who supply kids with tobacco are themselves under age 21.ⁱ
- Tobacco 21 reduces the number of high schoolers and other people in teens' social circles who can legally purchase tobacco, thereby decreasing student access to tobacco products.

Tobacco 21 health impact

- Tobacco 21 could result in immediate reductions in inflammation and impaired immune function, as well as decreased incidents of preterm birth, low birth weight, and SIDS.ⁱⁱ
- Economists estimate that a national Tobacco 21 law would save \$212 billion in medical costs.ⁱⁱⁱ
- The Institute of Medicine predicts that a national Tobacco 21 law would, over time, reduce the smoking rate by about 12 percent and smoking-related deaths by 10 percent, which translates into 223,000 fewer premature deaths, 50,000 fewer deaths from lung cancer, and 4.2 million fewer years of life lost.

Nationwide/Local Support: (As of January 2017)

- More than 200 cities in 14 states plus the states of Hawaii and California have passed Tobacco 21 legislation. Many more are considering Tobacco 21.
- Evanston, Chicago, Oak Park, Highland Park, Naperville, Deerfield, St. Louis and St. Louis County already have a Tobacco 21 ordinance in place.
- A July 2015 CDC study found 75% of U.S. adults, including 70% of current smokers, support Tobacco 21.

Retired Senior Military Leaders Support Tobacco 21

Because of their concern about the military readiness of our nation, several retired military leaders and their organization **Mission: Readiness** have expressed their strong support to increase the legal age of sale for purchase tobacco products and e-cigarettes to 21.

"Increasing the age to legally purchase tobacco products is one of the most promising strategies we have to reduce tobacco use in youth and young adults. Americans owe much to the outstanding young people who choose to serve in our military. But early addiction to a deadly drug is no reward."^{iv}