

**The Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust Fund Board of Directors
Resolution “Reducing Youth Smoking by Increasing the
Price of Tobacco Products”**

November 13, 2015

Whereas tobacco use kills an estimated 7,500 Oklahomans each year and Oklahoma has one of the highest percentages of smoking-related deaths in the nation; and

Whereas tobacco use is Oklahoma’s leading cause of preventable death and is responsible for more deaths than alcohol, car accidents, AIDS, suicides, murders, and illegal drugs combined; and

Whereas tobacco use affects nearly every organ in the body and is a major cause of heart disease, cancer, stroke, colorectal cancer, liver cancer, diabetes, age-related macular degeneration, liver cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD); and

Whereas 22.7 percent of Oklahoma high school students and 9.8 percent of Oklahoma middle school students use tobacco products,

Whereas among Oklahoma children now under the age of 18, an estimated 88,000 will die prematurely as a result of tobacco addiction; and

Whereas the estimated costs of tobacco use in Oklahoma exceed \$1.6 billion annually or approximately \$923 per capita; and

Whereas a ten percent increase in price leads to a decline in cigarette consumption of four percent overall, seven percent among pregnant women and thirteen percent among youth; and

Whereas Oklahoma has the 33rd lowest cigarette excise tax in the nation; and

Whereas increasing the price of tobacco products through excise taxes or other means has been proven to significantly reduce tobacco consumption, particularly among youth, in Oklahoma, the US, and throughout the world.

Be it now resolved that the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust Fund Board of Directors urges the people of Oklahoma to support a significant increase in the price on tobacco products, to save lives and save money within the State of Oklahoma.