

RESOLUTION

Subject: Lung Cancer Prevention by Creating a Research Trust & Raising

Submitted by: Greater Louisville Medical Society

Referred to: Reference Committee

WHEREAS, Kentucky (KY) has the highest incidence of all states for lung and bronchial cancer, and the highest incidence of all states for adult smokers (23.4%), and the highest incidence (with West VA.) of all states for under-age smokers (14.3%); and

WHEREAS, health care and lost productivity costs of US smoking born by providers, taxpayers and employers annually is enormous, at \$168 billion for health care and \$300 billion total, (which translates to \$19.16 per pack smoked); and

WHEREAS, purchase price increases, including excise taxes, of cigarettes and nicotine delivery agents have been shown as the greatest deterrent to begin their use, and the greatest incentive to quit using; and

WHEREAS, KY's low excise tax of \$1.10 per pack is insufficient deterrence, being \$0.81 below average of all US states (\$1.91), and \$3.14 below the highest tier states (NY, CT, RI, MD + DC) for deterrence strength through excise tax rates (\$4.24 average); and

WHEREAS, funding of research greatly enhances prevention and treatment; as exemplified by the nationally acclaimed Kentucky Spinal Cord and Head Injury Trust; and

WHEREAS, KMA 2021-2 President Neal Moser, MD, has designated lung health as a key focus of his presidency; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that KMA strongly support President Neal Moser, MD's focus on lung health, including lung and bronchial cancer; and be it further

RESOLVED, that KMA sponsor legislation to establish a Kentucky Lung Health Trust that awards grants for cancer research, nicotine delivery epidemiology and environmental lung injury studies, and which would have a funding base from excise taxes on cigarettes and nicotine delivery agents, and which would be modeled on the acclaimed KY Spinal Cord and Head Injury Trust (with greater applicant access); and be it further

RESOLVED, that KMA support smoking deterrence and fund research of this Trust by sponsoring legislation to raise KY's cigarette excise tax from \$1.10 to above the National average of \$1.91 per pack, and to raise excise taxes on all other nicotine delivery agents proportionally to that of cigarettes (to encourage abstaining, not switching).