

Resolution No.: 15-1507
Introduced: June 20, 2006
Adopted: June 27, 2006

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: Health and Human Services Committee

SUBJECT: Support for the Healthy Maryland Initiative

Background

1. Raising the state's tobacco tax by \$1.00 per pack will dramatically reduce teen and adult smoking, saving lives and reducing state health care costs.
2. Over 1.5 million people in Maryland do not have access to quality, affordable health care which greatly puts their health at risk.
3. Every time uninsured workers go to the emergency room and cannot pay their bills, these high costs get passed along to taxpayers and those currently with insurance.
4. Reducing the number of uninsured Marylanders will save lives AND reduce health care premiums for those with insurance.

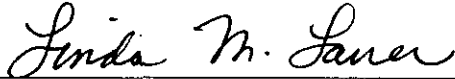
Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland, approves the following action:

The County Council calls on the Maryland State General Assembly to raise the state tobacco tax by \$1.00 per pack to:

- reduce teen and adult smoking by funding a comprehensive prevention program;
- give thousands of uninsured families access to care by expanding the HealthChoice program to parents earning below 100% of poverty (currently \$19,350/year for a family of four); and
- help small businesses afford health coverage for their workers by offsetting a portion of their health care costs.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council