



FROM	Name & Title	Oxiris Barbot, MD Commissioner 	Health Department MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
	Subject	Council Bill 11-0003R – Request for State Action-Healthy Maryland Initiative		

To: President and Members
of the City Council
c/o 409 City Hall

January 9, 2012

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to respond to Council Bill 11-0003R. The purpose of this resolution is to express support for increasing the state cigarette tax by \$1.00 per pack, along with a similar increase to the tax on other tobacco products, with the revenue from these tax increases to fund: the state tobacco control program; the state health improvement process and other community based health initiatives.

Since tobacco use is such an integral risk factor in the cancer incidence and mortality rates in Baltimore City, the need to emphasize tobacco use cessation remains a priority. A comparison of tobacco use indicators in Baltimore shows the rate of change from 2000 to 2010. Based on data from Monitoring Changing Tobacco Use Behaviors in Maryland, DHMH 2010, adult cigarette smoking in Maryland decreased significantly. Maryland has the 11th lowest rate of adult cigarette smoking in the country. In 2000 for Baltimore City, the prevalence of cigarette use among adults was 29.7%; in 2010, the prevalence was 25.1%. In terms of prevalence of tobacco use among adult households with minor children in Baltimore City, the rates are as follow: 48.1% in 2000; and 32.7% in 2008. In 2000, the cigarette smoking by under-age youth in high school was 10.8%; it was 9.5% in 2010. However, the increased use of cigar use by youth is alarming. In 2000, 8.8% of youth reported smoking cigars. In 2010, that figure increased to 16.2%, with Black and Milds being the brand of choice. We will continue our efforts to decrease the use of these cigars among the youth population.

We appreciate the opportunity afforded to us by City Council Resolution 11-0003R to discuss efforts to continue decreasing tobacco use in the City.

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor
Michelle Spencer, Chief of Staff, Department of Health
Dr. Jacquelyn Duval-Harvey, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Health

