



March 15, 2018

**To: Chairman Steven Johnson and members of the house taxation committee**

**From: Gary Doolittle, MD and Peggy Johnson  
Co-chairs of the Kansas Cancer Partnership**

**Re: Testimony in support of HB 2231**

**Chairman Johnson and committee members,**

The Kansas Cancer Partnership addresses comprehensive cancer issues through a network of partners who are interested in reducing the burden of cancer in Kansas. The Kansas Cancer Partnership seeks to reduce the morbidity and mortality from cancer through prevention of cancer when possible and routine screening when appropriate. **Our partnership supports HB 2231.**

Smoking remains the leading preventable cause of cancer, and our state needs to do more to reduce tobacco use. Increasing the price of cigarettes and all other tobacco products through regular and significant tobacco tax increases is proven to reduce the number of young people who ever start using tobacco and helps adults currently using tobacco successfully quit.

A state tax cigarette tax increase of \$1.50 per pack - with a comparable increase in the tax on other tobacco products - is an effective policy solution to help counteract the toll tobacco takes on the health of Kansans and the state's health care budget.

The \$5 million appropriation to fund and sustain evidence-based, statewide tobacco use prevention and cessation programs will maximize health improvements and ensure Kansans seeking to quit tobacco use have the information and tools needed to succeed.

We urge your support for this life-saving legislation.

The Kansas Cancer Partnership is a collaboration between individuals and organizations across the state, including some that do not engage in lobbying. While the partnership has adopted this policy priority, it is not necessarily endorsed by every member organization.