

# INSPIRING A *Tobacco-Free Rhode Island* 2025 DAY OF ACTION

Tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States and in Rhode Island. To address this enormous toll, we urge the General Assembly to take the following actions:



## SMOKE-FREE CASINOS

### SUPPORT

**S-188 (Sosnowski)**  
**H-5464 (Tanzi)**

- Exposure to secondhand smoke causes heart disease, stroke, and cancer.
- 20 states, including Massachusetts, already prohibit smoking in state-regulated casinos – and Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods in Connecticut remained smoke-free post-pandemic.
- This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Public Health and Workplace Safety Act – it's time to close the casino loophole and protect casino workers and patrons.
- 69% of Rhode Island voters support smoke-free casinos.



## NO FLAVORED E-CIGARETTES

### OPPOSE

**S-543 (DiPalma)**  
**H-5329 (O'Brien)**

- Flavors hook kids.
- There is overwhelming evidence that mint, menthol and other candy and fruit flavors are luring children and adolescents and fueling tobacco addiction in the next generation.
- The sale of flavored e-cigarettes has been prohibited in Rhode Island for five years.
- These misguided bills would allow flavored e-cigarettes back on the market in Rhode Island and gut important protections for our youth.
- Don't take a step backwards.



## FUND TOBACCO PREVENTION & CESSATION

**Direct tobacco tax revenue to fund the RI Tobacco Control Program**

- The CDC Office on Smoking and Health was eliminated and funding for the Rhode Island Quitline and school and community prevention programming is at risk.
- Rhode Island collects more than \$115 million in tobacco tax revenue but only a mere 0.0067% is spent on tobacco prevention and cessation initiatives. This is unacceptable.
- The Tobacco Control Program plays a critical role in countering an industry that is relentless in its pursuit to develop products that will addict a new generation of users.



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## **The Toll of Tobacco in Rhode Island**

<b>Health Care Costs Due to Smoking:</b>	<b>\$639 million</b>
<b>Adult Smoking Rate:</b>	<b>9.5%</b>
<b>Adult Tobacco Use Rate:</b>	<b>15.2%</b>
<b>High School Vaping Rate:</b>	<b>16.5%</b>
<b>High School Tobacco Use Rate:</b>	<b>17.5%</b>
<b>Smoking Attributable Deaths:</b>	<b>1,780</b>

American Lung Association State of Tobacco Control Report - January 2025

## **Tobacco Control Funding in Rhode Island**

FY2025 State Funding for Tobacco Control Programs	\$429,828
FY2025 Juul Settlement Funding for Tobacco Control Program	\$350,000
FY2025 Federal CDC Funding for RI Tobacco Control Program	<del>\$1,383,858</del>
CDC Recommended Funding Level for Rhode Island	\$12,800,000
FY25 State Tobacco Tax Revenue Estimate	\$115 million
Percentage of RI Tobacco Tax Revenue currently funding Tobacco Control, Prevention, and Cessation efforts	<u>0.0067%</u>

*Eliminated by the federal  
administration*