

TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUNDS FOR YOUTH TOBACCO PREVENTION

WHEREAS, In 1998, the Attorneys General of 46 states, including Missouri, signed the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) with the four largest tobacco manufacturers in the United States to settle state suits to recover costs associated with treating smoking-related illness; and

WHEREAS, In the Master Settlement Agreement, the major U.S. tobacco companies agreed to pay approximately \$229 billion between 1999 and 2025 to 46 states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories, including Missouri; and

WHEREAS, \$6.7 billion of the \$229 billion in settlement monies were allocated to Missouri; and

WHEREAS, Most states, including Missouri, are failing to use the settlement monies for its intended purpose of attacking the enormous public health problem posed by tobacco use, even as they collect record amounts of revenue from the tobacco settlement and tobacco taxes; and

WHEREAS, Of the \$822 million in settlement monies received by Missouri since 1998, a significant portion - 48.7 percent or almost \$71 million in 2004 – has been used to cover budget shortfalls and none of the settlement monies have been used to attack public health problems caused by tobacco use or to implement tobacco use prevention programs; and

WHEREAS, Missouri is one of only five states that has committed no tobacco settlement or tobacco tax money for tobacco prevention programs; and

WHEREAS, Missouri ranks 49th in the nation out of the 50 states and the District of Columbia for low tobacco tax rates at just 17 cents per pack; and

WHEREAS, Missouri's smoking rate is the third highest in the nation with 26.6% of the adult population being smokers and 30.3% of high schoolers in Missouri being smokers; and

WHEREAS, In Missouri, 16,000 children become regular smokers – new addicts – every year; and

WHEREAS, \$337 million are spent annually in Missouri on the marketing of tobacco products; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers, its units and councils, encourage and support legislation requiring significant portions of the MSA settlement monies be allocated to statewide youth tobacco prevention programs and campaigns using Centers for Disease Control recommendations as a guideline; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers, its units and councils, encourage schools and school districts to incorporate youth tobacco prevention education in appropriate sections of the curriculum.