

FY17 Budget: Vermont Tobacco Control Program

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The American Lung Association in Vermont**

House Committee on Appropriations, Advocate's Hearing, February 18, 2016

We urge you to:

Commit to level funding Vermont's comprehensive tobacco control program (TCP) in FY17 at \$3,971,996 million from Master Agreement Settlement Funds, including \$291,127 for the Vermont Tobacco Evaluation and Review Board and independent program evaluation.

1. Independent evaluation has shown that due to reductions in adult smoking from 2001-2014, Vermont saved \$1.43 billion in smoking related healthcare costs, including \$245 million in Medicaid.
2. Due to independent evaluation, the TCP focuses health communication efforts on Medicaid population, leading to a 112% increase in Medicaid smokers enrolling in 802Quits from 2013 to 2015.

We urge you to:

Continue to reduce the pressure on the annual Master Settlement Agreement.

MSA:

- FY2016 MSA payment: \$32,296,396.00
FY2016 MSA appropriation: \$33,224,925.00 (\$28,079,458 is Medicaid)
- FY2017 MSA anticipated payment: \$32,898,747.00
- FY2018 MSA anticipated payment: \$23,294,762.00

Tobacco Trust Fund:

- FY2005: \$31,000,000.00 compared to FY2017: \$0

Our Credo

We will breathe easier when the air in every American community is clean and healthy.

We will breathe easier when people are free from the addictive grip of tobacco and the debilitating effects of lung disease.

We will breathe easier when the air in our public spaces and workplaces is clear of secondhand smoke.

We will breathe easier when children no longer battle airborne poisons or fear an asthma attack.

Until then, we are fighting for air.