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# Californians Against Unfair Tax Increases

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
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## **CALIFORNIANS AGAINST UNFAIR TAX INCREASES** **SAYS TOBACCO TAX INITIATIVE WOULD CAUSE CRIME, PENALIZE POOR**

SACRAMENTO -- Opponents of the Tobacco Tax Initiative said Monday that increased crime, unfair taxation of low wage earners and a multimillion-dollar windfall for doctors would be the principal result of the proposed excise tax increase on cigarettes and tobacco products.

Backers of the tax initiative were scheduled to submit signatures to county clerks around the state Monday in an effort to qualify the constitutional amendment for the November ballot. It would raise approximately \$650 million a year through a 25-cent per pack increase in the state excise tax on cigarettes.

Asking Californians to "take a closer look" at the trendy initiative measure, representatives of Californians Against Unfair Tax Increases (CAUTI) said the deceptive proposition contains hidden payoffs for well-to-do initiative sponsors, penalizes the poor and finances programs unrelated to smoking or tobacco products.

At a series of press briefings around the state, CAUTI also warned that raising the tax on cigarettes and other tobacco products "would pour hundreds of thousands of dollars of new black market profits into the already-sophisticated underground economy controlled by youth and other criminal gangs in California."

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Californians Against Unfair Tax Increases,  
A Committee Sponsored by the Tobacco Industry

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