



It's the most wonderful time of the year. Unless you live in New York.

An enormous tax hike is a rotten way to greet the New Year. But that's what New York's governor and ^{legislature} legislative leaders have in mind. They want to create a big-government healthcare entitlement program by doubling the cigarette excise tax.

New York already collects \$1.6 ^{billion} a year from cigarette makers. ~~One~~ billion dollars a year. Now they want more by imposing a new tax of 55 cents a pack. But it will only increase smuggling and drive an estimated \$750 million to \$1 billion a year in sales to nearby low-tax states.

*This is just another big gov't program to tax and spend
In reality, it's just a package of higher taxes.*

At what risk?

When this big-government entitlement program is up and running, it will be financed by a declining revenue source. Sounds like a shortsighted political fix. The right question is: Who's really going to pay for this in the [?] years ahead?

~~Creating a huge new healthcare program with tobacco taxes is a bad idea.~~

Call your legislator today and voice your opposition.

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