

Talking Points for New York

To expand healthcare to New Yorkers, the Governor and the legislator has chosen to increase tobacco excise taxes. Foolish to target a revenue stream that is and will continue to decrease. Tobacco taxes are not a sustainable revenue source that can cover the substantially increased healthcare costs for New York. Who's going to be taxed next ?

A tobacco tax is the worst example of a regressive tax. Many of the individuals the state is claiming to cover will be the very individuals being gouged by this tax.

Paying for healthcare costs by increasing tobacco taxes is bad public policy. First, a doubling of the tobacco tax will hasten the decrease of the revenue stream, forcing the state to find new targets for tax increases to make up the difference. Second, a tobacco tax is a regressive tax and will punitively target the very individuals the state is working to help.

This is a huge expansion of healthcare. Most of the details are not known or yet to have been worked out. Nevertheless, the Governor and our legislative leaders have already agreed to a program and decided to raise taxes to pay for it. Is that a way our state government should be working? Haven't they learned anything from Bill and Hillary's big government policy of the past?

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