



New York Has Been Scrooged

When self-proclaimed tax cutters turn on a dime to advocate a massive tax hike, it's time for a second look. Governor Pataki and state legislators want to increase tobacco taxes to expand healthcare. But they're going about it the wrong way.

Their plan forces an extra burden on those who can least afford it. The very people the state is trying to help—the working poor and other uninsured New Yorkers—will be gouged the most.

It gets worse. When cigarette taxes are doubled, overall cigarette tax revenues will decline. What's left? An expanding taxpayer-financed program, but a declining source of taxes to pay for it. Hold on to your wallet. You might be next.

Paying for a huge new healthcare program with tobacco taxes is a bad idea. It's a double loser.

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