

***Action Item Four:
Protect Montanans From Exposure to Secondhand Tobacco Smoke***

Exposure to tobacco smoke is a public health problem. An estimated 110 to 200 adults, children and babies die because of exposure to other people's smoke. All Montanans should have a right to a smokefree workplace.

The Alliance encourages the governor and the 59th Legislature to provide protections for all Montanans from the deadly toxins in tobacco smoke and oppose any weakening of protection for workers and the public from exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke.

***Action Item Five:
Increase Resources for Tobacco Tax and MSA enforcement***

The Alliance is committed to the sustainability of our policy recommendations and programs. It is essential that the State of Montana enforce the provisions outlined in the Master Settlement Agreement with due diligence in order to continue receiving annual settlement fund payments. It is also important that the State have a sound enforcement plan for tobacco tax collection to maximize the revenue.

Therefore the Alliance fully supports the Department of Revenue's and the Department of Justice's recommendation to increase their funding for MSA and tobacco tax enforcement over the biennium. We suggest this increase be funded via either the Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund interest or new revenue in the general fund as a result of the tobacco tax increase.

Alliance Members

AARP Montana, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Lung Association of the Northern Rockies, BlueCrossBlueShield of Montana, Deaconess Billings Clinic, Montana Academy of Pediatricians, Montana Association for Disability Services, Montana Chapter-American Academy of Pediatrics, Montana Children's Initiative, Montana Council for Maternal and Child Health, Montana Dental Association, Montana Diabetes Association, MHA... An Association of Montana Healthcare Providers, Montana Medical Association, Montana Nurses Association, Montana Pharmacy Association, Montana Physicians for Prevention, Montana Public Health Association, Montana Senior Citizens Association, New West Health, ProtectMontanaKids.org, St. Vincent Healthcare, and WEEL.