



**RESPIRATORY
HEALTH
ASSOCIATIONSM**
of Metropolitan Chicago

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Media Contacts:

*Megan Vidis (312) 628-0225
Cell (312) 282-1665*

Respiratory Health Association supports new federal cigarette tax increase

Statement attributable to:

Joel A. Africk

President & CEO, Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago

‘Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago (RHAMC) applauds Congress and President Obama’s commitment to children’s health by increasing the federal tobacco tax and using that money to support the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). In addition to improving children’s healthcare, the 62-cent per pack tax increase discourages youth from smoking and therefore will save billions of dollars in healthcare costs.

‘The cigarette tax increase will yield tremendous public health benefits. In Illinois alone, this tax will result in 85,000 fewer youth smokers as more teens quit or never start in the first place. Overall this tax will prevent an estimated 38,000 smoking related deaths. Our state will see an estimated \$1.8 billion in future healthcare savings. The federal tax increase will be effective March 31, 2009.

“Respiratory Health Association is committed to helping individuals live healthy smoke-free lives. We are excited to offer Courage to Quit, a free stop smoking program. Visit www.lungchicago.org for more information.”

Chicago’s Lung Health
Leader Since 1906

1440 W. Washington Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60607-1878
Phone: (312) 243-2000
Fax: (312) 243-3954
www.lungchicago.org