



Rhode Island Chapter

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Achieving a Tobacco-Free Rhode Island

Tobacco use remains the single largest preventable cause of disease and premature death. More than 16 million Americans are living with a disease caused by smoking. Smoking causes over 10 types of cancer, heart disease, stroke, lung diseases, diabetes, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), which includes emphysema and chronic bronchitis.ⁱ As lung cancer remains the top cancer killer in the state, tobacco continues to claim the lives of 1,800 Rhode Islanders each year.^{ii, iii} Unfortunately, Rhode Island is on the wrong path when it comes to tobacco use. Currently, around 10% of adults smoke and 17.3% of high school students in Rhode Island use tobacco products.^{iv}

The above signed organizations respectfully urge the Rhode Island General Assembly to:

Support adequate funding for tobacco prevention, cessation, and enforcement efforts through increased tobacco taxes

- **S2860 (Sen Vargas)** and **H8346 (Rep Cortvriend)** would codify the Rhode Island Tobacco Control Program and increase funding for tobacco control and prevention

Oppose tobacco industry-driven attempts to roll back protections for kids including decreasing taxes on certain tobacco products and allowing flavored e-cigarettes back on the market in Rhode Island.

- **S2844 (Sen DiPalma)** and **H8370 (Rep O'Brien)** would allow flavored e-cigarettes back on the market in RI
- **S2360 (Sen DiPalma)** and **H7804 (Rep Caldwell)** would lower taxes on certain tobacco products making them more accessible to youth
- **S3131 (Sen DiPalma)** and **H8188 (Rep Baginski)** would make emerging products like nicotine pouches cheaper under a new definition

Please feel free to contact us with any additional questions or information. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Daniel Fitzgerald

Director of Advocacy, Rhode Island & Massachusetts
American Lung Association
Daniel.Fitzgerald@lung.org
401-533-5176

Ryan Timothy Strik

Government Relations Director, RI
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
Ryan.Strik@cancer.org
401-259-1052

Megan Tucker

Region Senior Director, Field Advocacy
American Heart Association
Megan.Tucker@heart.org
401-228-233

Kevin O'Flaherty

Associate Vice-President, State and Local Advocacy
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
646-919-0469

Supporting Organizations:

American Academy of Pediatrics – Rhode Island Chapter
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, New England Chapter
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
Oasis International African Center of Rhode Island
Partnership to Reduce Cancer in Rhode Island
Rhode Island Kids Count
Rhode Island Pharmacists Association
Rhode Island Public Health Institute
Rhode Island Society for Health-System Pharmacists
Tobacco Twenty-One / Preventing Tobacco Addiction Foundation

ⁱ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2014). The Health Consequences of Smoking — 50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General. Retrieved from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK179276/>

ⁱⁱ American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts & Figures 2026. <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/research/cancer-facts-and-statistics/annual-cancer-facts-and-figures/2019/cancer-facts-and-figures-2019.pdf>

^{iii, iv, v} Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. The Toll of Tobacco in Rhode Island. Updated December 15, 2025. http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/facts_issues/toll_us/rhode_island