

**ACTIVITY 5**  
**PPS-TOBACCO CONTROL ADVOCACY GROUP**  
**WITH THE SIN TAX COALITION GROUP**  
**SENATE APPEARANCE AND TALK WITH THE SENATORS WITH THE YOUTH**

**November 8, 2017**

Last October 26, 2017, the PPS Board of Trustees agreed that the the PPS-TCAG formally joined the Sin Tax Coalition Group . This group is composed mostly of tobacco control advocates mainly focused on adult health concerns and advocacies. The Philippine Pediatric Society-Tobacco Control Advocacy Group is the active group to address the tobacco control concerns in the pediatric age group. The group made an appeal to the senate to include the Tobacco Tax Reform in the 2018 Tax Reform bill , that is to further raise the cigarette price to make it prohibitive most specially to the youth. The youth is price sensitive and a high price for tobacco will effectively lower replacement smokers from the teens.

November 8, 2017, together with Cavite Teen Health Workers , our soon to be Junior Tobacco Control advocates have a chance to sit down in one of the senate hearing on taxes. The teens prior to the senate hearing were oriented on the WHO MPOWER policies emphasizing the importance of higher tax on tobacco as an effective measure to lower tobacco use and also increased quit rates among smokers .



It is fortunate that our group got a 10 minute chance to talk with Seantor Wyn Gatchalian explaining the need of this tobacco tax reform to protect the youth.

At the SENATE



For 3 hours we listened to our senators for the senate hearing on tax reform hoping that we will be given a special attention to hear our plea for the youth. Immediately after the session ,the Chair of the Senate on Ways and Means Committee, Senator Sonny Angara sat with us for 20 minutes and listened to our concern on including tobacco tax reform for next year to boost the previous sin tax on tobacco to lower replacement smokers in the youth and protect the kids

health and environment. Also, a possible bill to raise the legal age of tobacco to 21 years old was also proposed. We, together with these hopeful teens look forward to a senate bill soon to further protect the children on tobacco and second hand smoke as well as that of the ENDS.

The fight is still a long journey but with these enthusiastic kids by our side, the PPS-TCAG is looking forward towards lowering the smokers in our youth and their exposure to second hand smoke as well.

Hence, for 2018 we shall be using this tag line for our tobacco control advocacy...



#ne4KidsAgainstTobacco

This tag line encompasses both personal refusal and active advocacy for others and invites others to participate.