



**UPDATED AND REVISED POSITION
STATEMENT
PHILIPPINE PEDIATRIC SOCIETY-
TOBACCO CONTROL ADVOCACY
GROUP**



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The Philippine Pediatric Society believes that adolescents are price sensitive and hence raising tobacco tax further will make cigarettes inaccessible for them.

The 2015 GYTS has shown an increase to 16% from 13% from 2009 youth smokers .

Hence this measure will significantly curb youth smokers , a population whose developing prefrontal cortex, the seat of executive function responsible for mood, impulse and behavior control makes them vulnerable and prone to nicotine addiction .

Tobacco industry knows this and targets the youth as replacement smokers .

More so, and immeasurable is the effect of second hand smoke and third hand smoke in the children's developing body and their predisposition to acquire the adult diseases of which tobacco is a significant risk factor.

Raising Tobacco Tax as proposed by the Senate bills 1599 , 1605, 2177 filed by Senator Pacquiao, Senator JV Ejercito and Senator Gatchalian shall be an effective health measure to significantly decrease the youth smokers.

Funds from this tobacco excise tax shall be channelled to augment the gap in the UHC funds.

In the long run, reduction of smokers and exposure to SHS shall reduce hospitalized smoking related diseases and funding to support them which takes so much toll in the Philhealth support (Cancer, COPD, Pneumonia and Cardiovascular Diseases , hence decreasing the funding needs in the future.

The perennial question of our children to us pediatricians “ What is the government doing to protect us against this hazardous tobacco”?

Raising Tobacco Tax to the Max is the answer , make this inaccessible to them and we help prevent our youth to fall into this dangerous smoking habit.