

SUPPORT TOBACCO PREVENTION

VOTE YES ON MEASURE 3 NOVEMBER 4th

For Immediate Release
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N.D. EDUCATION GROUPS ANNOUNCE SUPPORT OF MEASURE 3

November Ballot Measure Would Prevent and Reduce Youth Tobacco Use, Save Lives

FARGO, N.D. (October 22, 2008) – The North Dakota Education Association (NDEA) was among four major education groups to declare their support today of Measure 3, an initiative on the Nov. 4 ballot that would allow North Dakota to keep its promise to its children by fully funding tobacco prevention.

The Support Tobacco Prevention (STP) citizens group announced the support of NDEA in a news conference that also highlighted the endorsements of three other education groups: N.D. Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance teachers; N.D. Counseling Association, the school counselors' group; and Valley City School Board. The education groups join more than 45 of the state's major professional health organizations, individual leaders in health, local health organizations, and other statewide and local organizations in support of Measure 3.

“Our teachers, education groups, and groups who work with youth know that Measure 3 will allow North Dakota to keep the promise we made to our children,” said Heidi Heitkamp, chair of the STP committee. “Using North Dakota’s tobacco settlement money for tobacco prevention programs will help us reach more kids before they ever start using tobacco, and ultimately save their lives,” Heitkamp said. “When kids don’t smoke, they’re more likely to do well in school, too.”

Measure 3 requires that bonus payments the state receives from the tobacco settlement be used to fund a comprehensive tobacco prevention and cessation program.

Each year, 800 N.D. kids become new, regular smokers, and 11,000 kids alive today will die from their smoking, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In August, CDC issued a report that compared grades in school with a student’s tobacco use. Students with higher grades were less likely to use tobacco than their classmates with lower grades, and students who did not use tobacco earned higher grades in school than classmates who used tobacco. A study released last month by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids noted that if North Dakota fully funds a comprehensive tobacco prevention and control program, youth smoking would be cut by 12.7 percent in the first five years of the program.

A complete list of organizations follows. STP will update the list regularly on its website at www.stpnd.org.

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Education Groups Support Measure #3

ND Education Association

ND Counseling Association

ND Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, & Dance

Valley City School Board

Health Groups Support Measure #3

ND Medical Association

ND Nurses Association

ND Academy of Family Physicians

ND Academy of Pediatrics

ND Society for Respiratory Care

ND Dental Association

ND Dental Hygienists' Association

ND Pharmacists Association

ND Public Health Association

ND Nutrition Council

Health & Other Groups & Individuals Support Measure #3

American Lung Association of North Dakota

March of Dimes

Tobacco Free North Dakota

H. David Wilson, M.D., Dean, UND School of Medicine

UND School of Medicine Medical Center Advisory Council

Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota CEO Mike Unhjem

ND Farmers Union

ND AARP

Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids

Faith United Against Tobacco

Local Boards of Health Support Measure #3

Southwestern District Health Unit Board of Health, Dickinson area

Sargent County Board of Health

City-County Health District Board of Health, Valley City/Barnes County

Richland County Board of Health

Upper Missouri District Health Unit Board of Health, Williston area

Central Valley Health District Board of Health, Jamestown area

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Local Health Groups Support Measure #3

Missouri Valley ND Oncology Nurses, Bismarck
Alliance for Tobacco-Free Lifestyles (ATFL) Coalition, Dickinson
Cancer and Substance Abuse Task Force, Dickinson
Health 8s Coalition, Dickinson area
Southwest Coalition of Safe Communities, Dickinson area
Project ACE (Action, Commitment, Education) Coalition, Dickinson
Traill County Safe Communities Coalition

Local Health Groups, Hospitals & Others Support Measure #3

Head of the Red Safe Communities Coalition, Richland County
Lake Region Safe Communities Coalition, Devils Lake area

Mercy Recovery Center, Williston
Mercy Hospital, Valley City

Wahpeton City Council
Richland County Commission
Richland County Tobacco Free Coalition
Bismarck Tobacco Free Coalition
 Fargo area SAFE Coalition
Grand Forks Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

This list is current as of 10/22/2008. Group names in italic type were added after 9/29/2008. Find regular updates at www.stpnd.org .

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