



The Maryland State Medical Society

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MARYLAND CELEBRATES BEING THE ONLY STATE TO RAISE TOBACCO TAX

BALTIMORE, June 5, 2012 – MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, will join various public health organizations to praise the work of Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown and the O’Malley Administrations proposed life-saving increase in the state’s tax on cigars and smokeless tobacco. MedChi President, Harbhajan Ajrawat, MD, explained “This is a great public health success and hopefully it will continue to reduce the number of teens/young adults smoking cigars or using smokeless tobacco products. We specifically want to thank Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown for his work raising the tax rate on these deadly products.”

A tax on cigars and other tobacco products had not been changed since 1999. By increasing the tax on little cigars to 70% of wholesale price and by doubling the tax on smokeless tobacco, thousands of young lives will be saved from addiction to these deadly drugs. The increase will bring in much needed extra revenue to the state. While the tobacco tax increase is earmarked for the State’s general fund, MedChi hopes the State continues to use those funds for important public health programs like Medicaid and tobacco cessation programs.

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland’s foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.