

For Immediate Release:
Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2016

Contact: Ronald J. Leone
573.864.5189

More than 100 state legislators join coalition to oppose troubling tobacco tax scheme.

Jefferson City – A large bipartisan coalition of state representatives and senators from across Missouri are encouraging voters to vote “No” on a controversial constitutional amendment that contains several troubling provisions.

Today, a total of 19 state senators and 91 state representatives announced their opposition to Amendment 3 and encouraged their constituents to oppose Big Tobacco's scheme. The overwhelming legislative opposition puts the majority of Missouri lawmakers on the same side as many diverse organizations that have come out against Amendment 3 - including groups that historically supported tobacco taxes.

“Whether you’re Democrat or Republican, conservative or liberal, there is something in Amendment 3 for everyone and every group not to like,” said Ronald J. Leone, Executive Director of the Missouri Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association (MPCA).

Missouri State Senators Opposing Amendment 3

Sen. Dan Brown, R-Rolla
Sen. Maria Chapelle-Nadal, D-University City
Sen. Mike Cunningham, R-Rogersville
Sen. Ed Emery, R-Lamar
Sen. Dan Hegeman, R-Cosby
Sen. Mike Kehoe, R-Jefferson City
Sen. Will Kraus, R-Lee's Summit

Sen. Brian Munzlinger, R-Williamstown
Sen. Bob Onder, R-Lake St. Louis
Sen. Mike Parson, R-Bolivar
Sen. Ron Richard, R-Joplin
Sen. Gary Romine, R-Farmington
Sen. David Sater, R-Cassville
Sen. Rob Schaaf, R-St. Joseph

Sen. Dave Schatz, R-Sullivan
Sen. Eric Schmitt, R-Glendale
Sen. Jill Schupp, D-Creve Coeur
Sen. Gina Walsh, D-St. Louis
Sen. Paul Wieland, R-Imperial

Missouri State Representatives Opposing Amendment 3

Rep. Justin Alferman, R-Hermann
Rep. Sonya Anderson, R-Springfield
Rep. Allen Andrews, R-Grant City
Rep. Kevin Austin, R-Springfield
Rep. Kurt Bahr, R-O'Fallon
Rep. Chuck Basye, R-Rochepoint
Rep. Nathan Beard, R-Sedalia
Rep. Jack Bondon, R-Belton
Rep. Rick Brattin, R-Harrisonville
Rep. Wanda Brown, R-Lincoln
Rep. Eric Burlison, R-Springfield
Rep. Bob Burns, D-St. Louis
Rep. Jason Chipman, R-Steelville
Rep. Mike Cierpiot, R-Lee's Summit
Rep. Kathie Conway, R-St. Charles
Rep. Steve Cookson, R-Poplar Bluff
Rep. Robert Cornejo, R-St. Charles
Rep. Sandy Crawford, R-Buffalo
Rep. Paul Curtman, R-Pacific
Rep. Charlie Davis, R-Webb City
Rep. Dean Dohrman, R-La Monte
Rep. J Eggleston, R-Maysville
Rep. Kevin Engler, R-Farmington
Rep. Scott Fitzpatrick, R-Shell Knob

Rep. Travis Fitzwater, R-Holts Summit
Rep. Tom Flanigan, R-Carthage
Rep. Lyndall Fraker, R-Marshfield
Rep. Diane Franklin, R-Camdenton
Rep. Keith Frederick, R-Rolla
Rep. Elaine Gannon, R-DeSoto
Rep. Elijah Haahr, R-Springfield
Rep. Marsha Haefner, R-St. Louis
Rep. Galen Higdon, R-St. Joseph
Rep. Justin Hill, R-Lake St. Louis
Rep. Dave Hinson, R-St. Clair
Rep. Denny Hoskins, R-Warrensburg
Rep. Jay Houghton, R-Mexico
Rep. Tila Hubrecht, R-Dexter
Rep. Jacob Hummel, D-St. Louis
Rep. Tom Hurst, R-Meta
Rep. Delus Johnson, R-St. Joseph
Rep. Caleb Jones, R-Columbia
Rep. Jeffery Justus, R-Branson
Rep. Shelley Keeney Taylor, R-Marble Hill
Rep. Mike Kelley, R-Lamar
Rep. Bill Kidd, R-Independence
Rep. S. Nick King, R-Liberty
Rep. Andrew Koenig, R-Manchester

Rep. Glen Kolkmeier, R-Odessa
Rep. Bart Korman, R-High Hill
Rep. Mike Learn, R-St. Louis
Rep. Donna Lichtenecker, R-Jackson
Rep. Warren Love, R-Osceola
Rep. Steve Lynch, R-Waynesville
Rep. Nick Marshall, R-Parkville
Rep. Kirk Mathews, R-Pacific
Rep. John McCaherty, R-High Ridge
Rep. Tracy McCreery, D-St. Louis
Rep. Andrew McDaniel, R-Deering
Rep. Joe Don McGaugh, R-Carrollton
Rep. Jeffrey Messenger, R-Republic
Rep. Rocky Miller, R-Tuscumbia
Rep. Mike Moon, R-Ash Grove
Rep. Dave Muntzel, R-Boonville
Rep. Jim Neely, R-Cameron
Rep. Mark Parkinson, R-St. Charles
Rep. Joshua Peters, D-St. Louis
Rep. Don Phillips, R-Kimberling City
Rep. Tommie Pierson, D-St. Louis
Rep. Randy Pietzman, R-Troy
Rep. Craig Redmon, R-Canton
Rep. Holly Rehder, R-Sikeston

Rep. Bill Reiboldt, R-Neosho
Rep. Tim Remole, R-Excelsior
Rep. Shawn Rhoads, R-West Plains
Rep. Todd Richardson, R-Poplar Bluff
Rep. Shane Roden, R-Cedar Hill
Rep. Rebecca Roeber, R-Lee's Summit
Rep. Don Rone, R-Portageville

Rep. Robert Ross, R-Yukon
Rep. Lyle Rowland, R-Cedarcreek
Rep. Lindell Shumake, R-Hannibal
Rep. Chrissy Sommer, R-St. Charles
Rep. Bryan Spencer, R-Wentzville
Rep. Jered Taylor, R-Nixa
Rep. Rob Vescovo, R-Arnold

Rep. Nate Walker, R-Kirksville
Rep. Bill White, R-Joplin
Rep. John Wiemann, R-O'Fallon
Rep. Kenneth Wilson, R-Smithville
Rep. David Wood, R-Versailles

Organizations Opposing Amendment 3 Include:

American Cancer Society & Other Health Organizations. Amendment 3 is such a terrible idea that it's opposed by health-care groups that typically support tobacco tax increases including the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Heart Association, American Stroke Association, American Lung Association, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City and Tobacco-Free Missouri.

◦ "Undoubtedly, it is profit - not public health - that is the true motivation behind the tobacco industry's sudden support of such a small tax, and they should not be determining Missouri's public health policy." (3/2/16 Missouri Times).

◦ "R.J. Reynolds' current campaign contributions totaling more than \$3 million in support of a tobacco tax proposal are unprecedented. Reynolds, best known for their infamous Joe Camel cartoon, is notorious for its aggressive efforts to lure kids into smoking. Missouri voters shouldn't let the tobacco industry write policies that ultimately keep our state's youth hooked on these deadly products." (8/9/16 joint statement).

Teacher & Education Groups. Amendment 3 is opposed by the Missouri National Education Association (MNEA), the Missouri Retired Teachers Association, and the Missouri Association of Rural Education because it allows unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats to give public tax dollars to private schools without adequate oversight and quality control.

◦ •Charles E. Smith, an English teacher and President of the Missouri National Education Association (MNEA), announced the 35,000 educators of the MNEA will oppose the Raise Your Hand for Kids (RYH4K) constitutional amendment.

"The stakes for children are simply too high to overlook the constitutional amendment's shortcomings," said Smith. "The amendment permits public tax dollars to fund programs at elite private or religious schools. It lacks strong oversight and it places all decisions in the hands of an unelected commission a majority of whom do not have a background in education." (5/25/16 MNEA News Release).

Medical Research Groups. Amendment 3 is opposed by the Stowers Institute for Medical Research, BioSTL, Washington University in St. Louis, We Deserve Better, MOBIO and Missouri Cures because it is anti-science and anti-research in that it restricts promising stem cell medical research, treatment and cures.

Why would Amendment 3's tax increase for "early childhood education" ever need to include the terms "human cloning" and "embryonic stem cells"?

◦ "Missouri Cures has consistently stood against attempts to undermine the research-friendly environment guaranteed by the amendment that voters passed a decade ago....As long as the RYH4K ballot initiative contains words that hamstringing innovation and stifle the search for better medical treatments, Missouri Cures will stand opposed." (3/11/16 St. Louis Post-Dispatch).

Pro Life and Conservative Organizations. For the first time ever, Amendment 3 is attempting to put the terms “abortion” and “abortion services” in the Missouri Constitution. Why would Big Tobacco’s tax increase for “early childhood education” ever need to include the terms “abortion” and “abortion services”?

Amendment 3 is opposed by conservative groups such as Concerned Women for America of Missouri, Missouri Alliance for Freedom and United for Missouri.

° Bev Ehlen, Missouri State Director, Concerned Women for America: “I believe placing abortions of any type in the Missouri Constitution for an effort to provide more funds to early childhood education in the state is problematic in many ways.” (3/29/16).

Newspaper Editorial Boards. St. Louis Post-Dispatch (4/25/16), Columbia Daily Tribune (4/29/16).

Paid for by the Missouri Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association (MPCA) PAC, Ronald J. Leone, Treasurer.

###