

# VOTE YES I-185

## It's time tobacco corporations pay for the millions in healthcare costs caused by their deadly products.

Smoking is the **number one** cause of preventable death in America.

Smoking alone kills more people each year than alcohol, car crashes, illegal drugs, homicides and suicides combined.

Tobacco corporations have spent **millions of dollars on lobbying** politicians and campaign contributions to defeat tobacco taxes in Montana.

Tobacco and tobacco-related diseases kill **1,600 Montanans** each year.

In Montana, **28.4% of cancer deaths** are caused by smoking.

I-185 would prevent nearly **100,000 Montanans** from losing Medicaid coverage. This includes thousands of Montana veterans and their families who have sacrificed for us and are now eligible for Medicaid.

### I-185 would:

- Fund programs that prevent kids from smoking and help smokers quit;
- Support long-term care services that help seniors and people with disabilities live independently and remain in their homes;
- Provide funding for prescription drug coverage for low-income seniors; and
- Prevent cuts to Montana's current Medicaid program including services for veterans, children, seniors, and people with disabilities.

## Standing up for our veterans.

Some of the new funds will go directly to veterans' nursing homes and to address unmet needs, like **suicide prevention for veterans**.

Based on current smoking rates, there are over **19,000 kids** in Montana today who will ultimately die prematurely from smoking.

Tobacco costs Montanans more than **\$440 million** in health care costs each year.

Every Montana household now pays nearly **\$779** extra in taxes annually to help cover the cost of smoking.

Smoking costs Montana businesses **\$368.9 million** annually in lost productivity.

### Increasing the state cigarette tax by \$2 will:

- Prevent 4,800 premature deaths;
- Decrease youth smoking rates by 20.6 percent;
- Prevent 8,000 Montana kids from becoming adult smokers; and
- Help 9,300 adults quit smoking.



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