

# The South Carolina Cancer Alliance

is a non-profit organization whose mission is to reduce the impact of cancer on **ALL** people in South Carolina

*Advocacy and Policy*

*Change*



## **2008 Cancer Policy & Legislative Agenda**

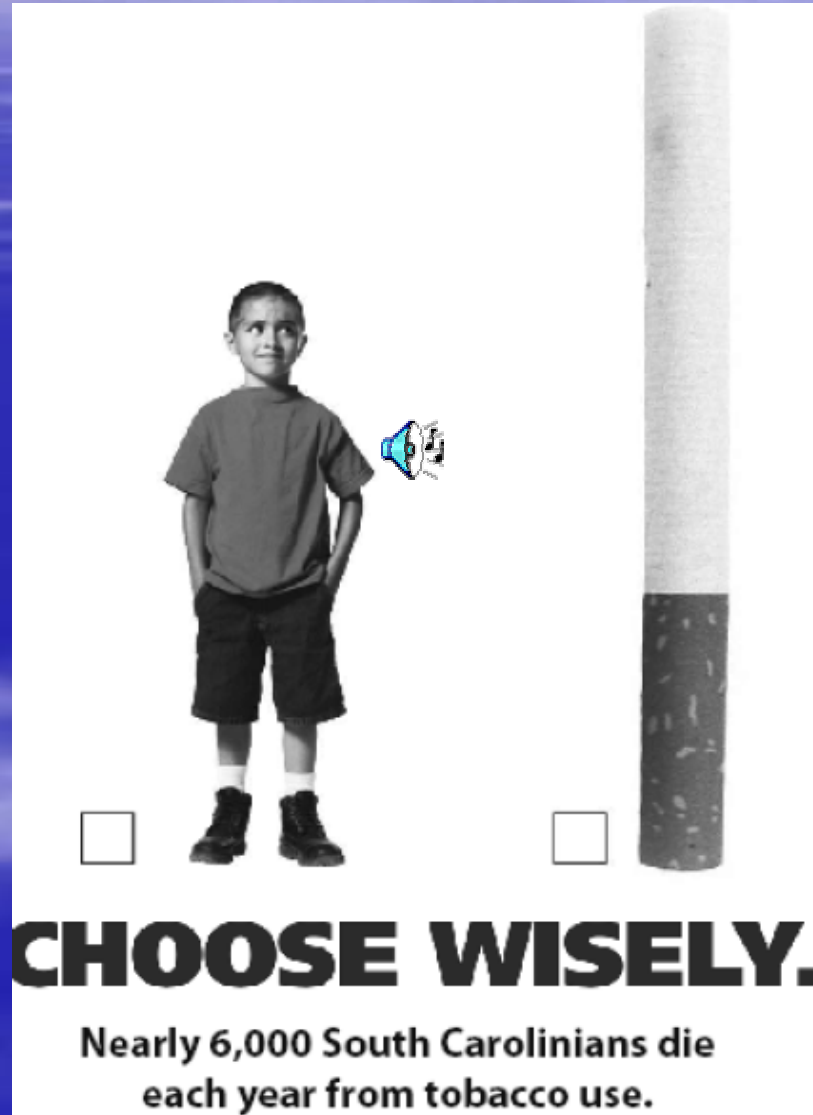
**Cigarette tax increase to at least \$1.00 per pack**

**Health insurance coverage for colorectal cancer screening and treatment**

**Smoke-free environment for all workers**

**\$2 million in state funding for the expansion of breast and cervical cancer screening by the Best Chance Network (BCN)**

# Media Campaign for Cigarette Tax



**CHOOSE WISELY.**

Nearly 6,000 South Carolinians die  
each year from tobacco use.



### **Raise revenue, save lives, be a superhero.**

You don't have to be a superhero to save lives – just a legislator who supports cigarette taxes to fund tobacco control, prevention and cessation. Tobacco use is the leading cause of heart disease and the nation's and South Carolina's No. 1 killer. Raising cigarette taxes and discouraging tobacco use saves thousands of lives each year – and reduces the more than \$1 billion in costs associated with health care and loss of productivity each year in SC. Don't miss this opportunity to use your power to protect the health of your community. Raise revenue by increasing cigarette taxes, save lives and be a superhero to those who value health.

**Heart Disease and Stroke. You're the Cure.**

## **SC Supreme Court says cities can ban smoking**

- **In an unanimous decision handed down in March 2008, the South Carolina Supreme Court has ruled that cities and towns have the power to ban smoking in public places.**
- **Greenville banned indoor smoking in public places last year and this ruling upholds the city's action.**
- **This decision affects the dozen or so local smoking ordinances already approved in counties, cities and towns across the state**

## CRANE COMES DOWN PEACOCK HOTEL DELAYS SPUR REMOVAL

USC sports  
avoids academic  
penalties / 1C

Nice  
Mostly sunny.  
High: 81°  
Weather: 12A

# The Greenville News



Greenville,  
South Carolina

GreenvilleOnline.com

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2008 ■ FINAL EDITION

ON / WORLD



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## Senate OKs cigarette tax increase

Votes would increase levy by 50 cents

By Tim Smith  
CAPITAL BUREAU  
tcsmith@greenvillenews.com

COLUMBIA — The Senate on Tuesday adopted an amendment to raise the cigarette tax by 50 cents a pack and to allow for automatic future increases tied to medical inflation.

The would raise about

\$159 million, most of which would be split between expanding Medicaid programs for poor families with children and a program that would provide an average of \$2,000 a year to help the poor buy health insurance.

The proposal spends \$5 million on programs to aid those who want to quit

smoking or to prevent people from starting.

"I think given the parameters we have to work with, this is the best direction for us to head to serve the most citizens who are uninsured," said Sen. Thomas Alexander of Wallhalla, who led a subcommittee that recommended a compromise.

Other amendments are to be taken up today.

The state's current 7-cent-per-pack tax is the lowest in the nation. It was last raised in 1977.

Alexander estimated the plan may provide coverage for as many as 200,000 of the state's uninsured, who number between 600,000 and 800,000.

The Senate adopted the compromise amendment by a 27-16 vote after defeating a proposal by Sen.

Brad Hutto of Orangeburg that would have raised the tax to \$1 a pack.

Hutto argued that his plan would bring more than \$200 million in matching federal funds alone for health care, an economic boost that he argued would be the equivalent of raising incomes in the state by 2 percent. That plan was tabled by a vote of 30-13.

## Obama pads lead in party delegates



## Canada extradites slaying suspect

Report: Man charged  
in Easley homicide

# SCCA Legislative Education Breakfast 2007

- Presenting the Data



# Colorectal Dialogue for Action 2007

- Planning Committee



# SC Blue Cross Blue Shield

Announcing CRC Coverage

- Press Conference with Legislators Feb 2008



# Close the Gap – Breast & Cervical Cancer in SC

Secured the first-ever South Carolina state appropriation of \$2,000,000 for the Best Chance Network (BCN)

OPINION/EDITORIAL

MORNING NEWS — Sunday, January 27, 2008 — 3-D

## Equal access needed to cancer screenings

**Y**ou have breast cancer." When spoken by your doctor, those four words will take your breath away. As a person living with the disease since 2004, I know first hand the effect those heavy words can have on individuals and their families. As a South Carolina legislator, I have seen firsthand how breast cancer impacts our communities and our people. More than 6,000 South Carolina women will be diagnosed this year with breast or cervical cancer.

While these cancers are fairly evenly distributed among women of all ages, races, ethnicities and incomes, access to screening and medical care for these diseases is not. Even as breast cancer mortality rates have been declining nationally, great breast cancer disparities still exist. Low-income, uninsured and black women are significantly more likely to die from breast cancer than high-income, insured and white women.

The critical difference between surviving or succumbing to breast cancer is

Rep.  
Cathy  
Harvin



access. I'm one of the lucky ones, having access to information, quality health care and resources. But the reality is that tens of thousands of South Carolinians do not have access or a fair chance at survival. The grim truth is that racial and ethnic minorities, low-income women and those with little or no health insurance are less likely to receive appropriate care and more likely to die.

According to the Institute of Medicine, low-income women have lower screening rates, are more likely to be diagnosed with late-stage breast cancer, and three times more likely to die from the disease. For breast cancer, white women in South Carolina are nearly 11 percent more likely to develop

breast cancer, but black women are nearly 35 percent more likely to die.

In 1991, South Carolina was one of the first states to become involved with the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program.

This federally funded initiative is operated in cooperation with the Centers for Disease Control and is called the Best Chance Network. The South Carolina Best Chance Network currently screens nearly 9,000 women each year, but this reaches less than 10 percent of eligible women. Through this program, women between the ages of 47 and 64, who are uninsured or only have insurance for hospitalization, and who meet stringently low income requirements, might be eligible to have free breast and cervical cancer screening.

This is a program that we desperately need to expand. Currently, this screening program gets by on federal funds. It is time to supplement the federal funds with a state commitment. With a \$2 million appropriation, 9,000

additional women would have access to potentially life-saving services thereby doubling the number of women screened through the Best Chance Network. I need your help in convincing legislators that 2008 is the year for the General Assembly to make this commitment.

This past fall, the Upstate and Lowcountry Alliances of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, the South Carolina Cancer Alliance and the American Cancer Society joined together to call for state funding for breast and cervical cancer, particularly as it affects low-income women and women of color in our community. We need to close the gaps in access to quality care that make these cancers deadlier for some women.

Urge your legislators to allocate \$2 million in state funding to ensure that more women have equal access to early detection for breast and cervical cancer.

— Rep. Cathy Harvin  
represents Clarendon and  
Williamsburg counties  
in the South Carolina House  
of Representatives.

# SC State Funds Youth Prevention and Cessation Efforts



## YOUTH SMOKING PREVENTION AND CESSATION PROGRAMS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

*Cigarette Tax Briefing Paper 2008*

- 48,100 high school students in South Carolina smoke (19.1%).
- 7,300 South Carolina kids under 18 become new daily smokers each year.
- 11.5 million packs of cigarettes are bought or smoked by South Carolina kids each year.
- 103,000 South Carolina kids now under 18 will ultimately die prematurely from smoking.
- 20.5% of middle school students who have ever tried smoking did so before the age of 11.
- 71% of voters think a cigarette tax is a good idea, particularly if **funding goes directly to youth smoking prevention and cessation programs.**

# SCCA Advocacy for Support of Cancer Screening Programs



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*Advocacy and Policy*

*For All Citizens*

