



# NEWS

## AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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## Oklahoma Fact of the Day #2

# Tobacco Taxes are Only the Tip of the Iceberg

Gov. Brad Henry and the legislature put a \$150 million tobacco tax increase on the November ballot. They claim the money is needed to fund healthcare in the state.

But this is no surprise – the public sector lives and thrives by spending YOUR money.

**The question Oklahomans should ask is, “After the big spenders get their \$150 million from smokers, who will they come after next to fund spending growth?”**

Nationwide, a trend is developing to fund new spending: a profitable industry is targeted and demonized; a link to health is declared; healthcare costs are blamed on the targeted industry; and finally, taxes and lawsuits seek to bleed the industry dry.

Notice the pattern:

- **Tobacco** – Nicotine is addictive; tobacco is marketed to kids; tobacco causes disease, costing the state millions; let’s tax tobacco
- **Soft drinks** – caffeine is addictive; soft drinks are marketed to kids; soft drinks cause obesity and tooth decay, costing the state millions; let’s tax soft drinks
- **Fast food** – fatty foods are addictive; fast food is marketed to kids; fast food causes obesity, costing the state millions; let’s tax fast food
- **Alcohol** – alcohol is additive; alcohol is marketed to kids; alcohol causes traffic accidents, domestic violence, and disease, costing the state millions; let’s tax alcohol

**The big spenders always want more revenue to fund more spending. They will come back for more taxes.**

**This year they are targeting smokers. Next year they might target YOU.**

**Vote NO on Question 713!**

*Americans for Tax Reform is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all federal and state tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact Chris Butler at (202) 785-0266 or by email at [cbutler@atr.org](mailto:cbutler@atr.org). ###*