

**Missouri State Medical Association
House of Delegates**

Resolution #1
(A-18)

Introduced by: Jim Blaine, MD
 Greene County Medical Society

Subject: Sale of Tobacco Products in Pharmacies

Referred to: Reference Committee A

1 WHEREAS, each year 480,000 lives and 5 million years of life lost due to tobacco use in the U.S.; and
2
3 WHEREAS, for every person who dies from tobacco, 30 live with serious tobacco related illnesses; and
4
5 WHEREAS, Tobacco use continues to be the leading preventable cause of death and illness in the nation;
6 and
7
8 WHEREAS, ninety percent of all smokers begin smoking prior to age 18; and
9
10 WHEREAS, although smoking rates have declined to less than 10% among those with a college diploma
11 or more, the smoking rates of those without a high school diploma is 24%; and
12
13 WHEREAS, some pharmacies still sell tobacco products; and
14
15 WHEREAS, virtually all of the tobacco industry’s \$8.5 billion annual marketing expenditure—more
16 than 96% of it—goes to marketing in retail environments, including in-store advertisements, discounts
17 and product displays behind check-out counters; and
18
19 WHEREAS, the same pharmacies that sell tobacco products represent themselves as leaders in
20 promoting good health and spend millions advertising that claim; and
21
22 WHEREAS, the mixed messages sent by tobacco selling pharmacies who represent themselves as
23 interested in the good health of their customers who trust them may be confusing; especially to the
24 young and uneducated; and
25
26 WHEREAS, pharmacies who do not sell tobacco have foregone billions in tobacco profits in favor of
27 promoting good health to their patrons, and deserve recognition for that sacrifice; therefore be it
28
29 RESOLVED, that the Missouri State Medical Association declare the practice of selling tobacco in
30 pharmacies as irresponsible from a public health perspective; and be it further
31
32 RESOLVED, that the Missouri State Medical Association encourages its members and all physicians to
33 advise their patients to patronize, when possible, pharmacies that do not send mixed messages to their
34 patients by selling tobacco.

Fiscal Note:

Current Policy: