

**REVENUE:** May have revenue impact, statement not yet issued

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Finance and Revenue
<b>Vote:</b>	4 - 1 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Johnson, Monnes Anderson, Nelson, Brown
<b>Nays:</b>	Ferrioli
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Marjorie Taylor, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	5/29

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Proposes amendment to Oregon Constitution imposing specific tobacco taxes. Dedicates revenue raised to childrens' health care programs, health care programs for low-income adults and other medically underserved Oregonians and to tobacco use prevention and education. Refers proposed amendment to people for their approval or rejection at a special election.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Childrens' health care programs and cost of health care in general
- Tobacco use reduction programs and success
- Demographics of population purchasing tobacco products
- Barriers to accessing health care coverage and services

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Replaces the measure.

**BACKGROUND:** In February 2006 Governor Kulongoski announced his Healthy Kids Plan. In his announcement he cited that there are 117,000 Oregon children without health insurance. Included in the Governor's announcement were facts about these children's lack of access to practitioners, medicine, eyeglasses, and other health care services that the insured typically have access to, and that approximately half of these uninsured children may be eligible for coverage under Oregon's Medicaid or SCHIP programs but are not currently enrolled. Additionally, it was noted that there are additional children of working families who earn too much to qualify for those publicly-funded programs, but not enough to pay all the costs of health insurance.

At the Governor's request, the Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC) worked with state agencies and community partners to design and develop key elements of the Plan, focusing on the delivery system, enrollment and retention and benefit options for expanding coverage for children in families with incomes above 200 percent of FPL. In May 2006, MAC issued their recommendations in the *Healthy Kids Plan: Medicaid Advisory Committee Recommendations Report*. Additionally, throughout the 2006 interim, the Senate Committee on Children's Health Care worked with the Governor, the Medicaid Advisory Committee and legislators to develop and refine the Healthy Kids Plan.

SJR 4A refers a constitutional amendment to voters that imposes a tobacco tax. The revenue raised will be dedicated to childrens' health care programs, health care programs for low-income Oregonians and other medically vulnerable populations, and tobacco use prevention and education programs.