

## Preamble

~~WHEREAS, Cigarette smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Each year the use of tobacco products kill kills over 7,500 Marylanders; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Tobacco is a risk factor for the top four leading causes of death in Maryland (heart disease, stroke, cancer, and pulmonary disease); and~~

~~WHEREAS, Among Maryland adolescents, smoking prevalence increased during the 1990s after several years of decline; and~~

~~WHEREAS, In 1997, the economic burden of cancer and other tobacco related diseases increased by 2% and cost Marylanders over 1.8 billion dollars; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Certain demographic groups remain at higher risk for tobacco use and often bear a disproportionate share of the human and economic cost of using tobacco products; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Tobacco is a leading risk factor in the development of many cancers, including cancer of the cervix, pancreas, kidney, bladder, esophagus, oral cavity and pharynx, larynx, and lung; and~~

~~WHEREAS, No single factor determines patterns of tobacco use: the patterns result from a complex interaction of multiple factors, such as socioeconomic status, cultural characteristics, stress, biological events, targeted marketing, tobacco pricing, and varying capacities of local communities to launch and sustain comprehensive tobacco control activities; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Maryland and one of every five deaths in Maryland is due to cancer; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Each year approximately 24,000 Marylanders are diagnosed with cancer and more than 10,000 Marylanders die of cancer; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Maryland's cancer incidence and mortality rates are consistently higher than national rates; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The burden of cancer differs markedly among racial and ethnic groups, with cancer incidence and mortality rates higher for African Americans and certain other minority groups; and~~

~~WHEREAS, There are areas and neighborhoods of cancer clusters; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Studies show that financial barriers to cancer screening, early detection services, and treatment are significant factors in the disparities for cancer incidence and mortality; and~~