

Colorado Public Health Association Resolution
On
Tobacco Retail Licensing

WHEREAS, tobacco-related illness is still the leading cause of death and disease in the United States and in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, tobacco products are detrimental to health and contribute to numerous cancers, heart disease, lung diseases and stroke; and

WHEREAS, tobacco-related illness costs Colorado \$1.31 billion in health care costs every year; and

WHEREAS, studies show teenagers who use nicotine are those most likely to become adult tobacco users; and

WHEREAS, 60 percent of Colorado teenagers who have attempted to buy tobacco illegally report that they were able to do so and over 50 percent report that they were not asked for identification; and

WHEREAS, the tobacco industry continues to develop new products that appeal to young people; and

WHEREAS, current resources for enforcing the illegal tobacco sales to minors law fund enforcement checks for less than a third of known tobacco retailers in the state; and

WHEREAS, Colorado does not currently have a reliable way to know who is selling tobacco in the state, which hinders enforcement efforts; and

WHEREAS, both state and local tobacco retail licensing policies are a proven, evidence-based strategy to reduce youth tobacco use, in conjunction with a comprehensive tobacco control effort;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Colorado Public Health Association (CPHA) supports a state policy requiring that all tobacco retailers in Colorado apply for a license to sell tobacco products, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CPHA supports local initiatives to require tobacco retailers to apply for local licenses to sell tobacco products.