

## Vote No on HB 1841

HB 1841 raises the Oklahoma excise tax on cigarettes from the current rate of \$1.03 per pack to \$2.53 effective September 1, 2017.

Oklahoma smokers paid \$574.4 million in state and federal taxes and fees on cigarettes last year, an average of \$27 for each carton of cigarettes sold. This state tax hike of 145% would increase the government share to \$42 per carton.

If HB 1841 passes, a pack a day smoker could save \$940 annually by purchasing cigarettes in Missouri, \$423 a year by getting them from Kansas or \$372 by getting them from Texas. This smoker could save even more by ordering them tax free on the internet.

Forty nine percent of this tax will be paid by those with incomes less than \$25,000 per year. These individuals will have less disposable income to purchase other items, resulting in decreased sales by businesses across Oklahoma.

The main number for the House of Representatives is 1-800-522-8502 or 405-521-2711. Find your state representative and their information on <http://www.oklegislature.gov/FindMyLegislature.aspx>. You can email your state representative from this site by double click on his/her picture. Be sure to put in the subject line: I live in your district.

