

Alcohol Taxes Save Lives and Money Resolution

Whereas, New Mexico's death rate from alcohol is the highest in the nation, and alcohol causes 16.4% of deaths in the state;

Whereas, a 25¢ per drink increase in the state alcohol tax would save 52 lives, prevent 306 violent acts and 12,375 cases of alcohol dependence or abuse in New Mexico every year, and reduce underage drinking by 7,150 youth (a 13% reduction);

Whereas, alcohol problems cost New Mexico \$1.876 billion per year, including \$793.5 million paid directly by governments – an additional \$406 in government expenditures per New Mexican, whether they drink or not;

Whereas, the 49% of New Mexicans who don't drink alcohol and the 32% who drink at low-risk levels currently pay for the costs generated by the 19% of New Mexican adults who drink excessively;

Whereas, excessive drinking costs New Mexico \$1.28 billion in reduced productivity, and a 25¢ per drink increase in the state alcohol tax would save the state's economy \$128 million per year in lost work days, and lower insurance and health care costs;

Whereas, a 25¢ per drink increase in the alcohol tax would help retain health care coverage for the more than 200,000 previously uninsured New Mexicans now covered by the recent Medicaid expansion;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the undersigned person or organization supports a 25¢ per drink increase in New Mexico's alcohol tax to save lives, reduce underage drinking, pay for some of the harms caused by excessive drinking, and fund:

- Expanding alcohol prevention & treatment programs
- Reimbursing cities and counties for the costs of alcohol-related harms
- Continued health care coverage under the Medicaid expansion

Name/Organization _____ Date _____

Contact Person's Name and Signature _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mobile _____ Land Phone _____ Email _____

Best way to contact you: E-mail or Mobile ?

Return to: Peter DeBenedittis, 1919 Morris Place, Santa Fe, NM 87505 or
alcoholtaxessavelives@gmail.com

Questions? E-mail or call 505-670-9797 or visit: <http://alcoholtaxessavelives.org>