

Thank you for this award.

I appreciate this recognition from:

- The American Cancer Society
- The American Lung Association
- and, the American Heart Association

I am proud of our Administration's work on tobacco prevention.

Under the leadership of Commissioner Malcolm and groups like yours, we have seen a drop in youth smoking rates this year, following almost a decade of increases in youth smoking.

This is great success, after just one year of the youth initiatives.

I want it to be clear that I remain committed to reducing youth tobacco use.

It's against the law . . .

It's unhealthy . . .

And it's expensive: Preventing youth from smoking means saving health care dollars in the future.

This year, I'm helping by proposing a 29 cents cigarette tax increase - which will make it tougher for youth to buy tobacco products.

We must continue working together on long-term solutions to do whatever we can to prevent teen smoking.

I know I can count on you.

Commissioner Malcolm, would you like to add anything?

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