

A- 1988

Brief Description:

Requires health insurers to cover costs of tobacco use cessation services. (2008:A1361; 2006:A1615)

Sponsor:

Conaway (D-7); Conners (D-7)

Reasons to Support:

- Smoking cessation is a laudable public policy pursuit that will benefit the general population's health.
- Tobacco use is the leading cause of premature morbidity and mortality in the United States (resulting in over 400,000 deaths in this country each year), insurance coverage for cessation services is uncommon.
- The high cost of treatment, and lack of insurance coverage for, effective smoking cessation treatments present some of the most formidable obstacles that low income smokers face in attempting to quit.

Reasons to Oppose:

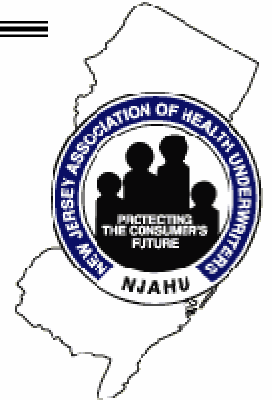
- The decision to begin smoking is a choice not an illness.
- Increasing coverage to include Smoking Cessation will drive up the premium for smokers and non smokers alike.
- Persons who can afford \$9 for 20 cigarettes can afford cessation services.

NJAHU Position:

Monitor (2.27.2010)

Status

2/8/2010 Introduced, Referred to Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee



Legislative Briefing