



Upper Missouri District Health Unit

"Your Public Health Professionals"

DIVIDE COUNTY

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MCKENZIE COUNTY

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Watford City, ND 58854
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MOUNTRAIL COUNTY

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WILLIAMS COUNTY

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Senate Bill 2024

ND Center for Tobacco Prevention and Control Policy Budget

8:30 a.m., March 8, 2017, House Appropriations

Good Morning, Chairman Pollert and members of the House Appropriations Committee, Human Resources Division. I am Javayne Oylo, Executive Officer of Upper Missouri District Health Unit, which provides services in Divide, McKenzie, Mountrail and Williams Counties.

The track record of the Center is impressive. You have heard testimony in regard to the substantial decrease in tobacco use across our state due to the single-focused approach using tobacco settlement funds. These are not just numbers or percentages but our fellow community members, friends and family who were finally able quit using tobacco or they are the children who will never start.

About a decade ago, I am one of the people who led the conversation in regard to leveraging the tobacco settlement funding to create a statewide, coordinated tobacco prevention effort. At that time North Dakota youth smoking rates were stalling, and chewing tobacco rates were climbing. Nationally, aggressive prevention efforts were successful in a short period of time. In a number of states we saw with a quick reduction in tobacco use rates, reduced healthcare costs followed. It was time to intensify our efforts.

Today we see the track record of documented results because of leadership from the Center, the dedication of public health professionals and other partners. These tobacco prevention efforts are driven through policy. Policy drives change, the ND Center for Tobacco Prevention and Control Policy must remain fully funded if we want to continue to reduce tobacco use at an accelerated rate. Help us to continue making critical tobacco-prevention gains and keep effective policies in place. As you have heard, this work is not done. Please keep this work funded at BreatheND.

Sincerely

Javayne Oylo
Executive Officer
Upper Missouri District Health Unit
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"It takes safe, healthy cities with vibrant, walkable main streets in downtowns to attract and retain a skilled workforce". Governor Burgum. We too want safe, healthy communities.