



A regular newsletter brought to you by Bismarck Burleigh Public Health.

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Poster Contest Winners

Congratulations to all the winners of this year's [Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health](#) Big Tobacco Exposed Poster Contest!

Students attending [Bismarck State College](#) and who are enrolled in the Graphic Design Program had the opportunity to design a digital ad about the effects of tobacco on dental health and bring awareness to smokefree laws. Physical Therapy students from the [University of Mary](#) pursuing a health-related degree judged the posters.

Poster Contest sponsored by [Tobacco Free North Dakota](#) (TFND).



1st Place - Ruth Jensen, Bismarck State College



2nd Place - Noah Schettler, Bismarck State College



3rd Place - Kerstin Hilzendeger, Bismarck State College

Legislative Update

On February 12th, HB 1570 was heard in the House Finance and Taxation Committee. This bill proposes a \$1.09 increase in the cigarette tax, aligning North Dakota with South Dakota's tax rate. It will also increase snuff by \$1.36 and chewing tobacco by \$0.36. Include nicotine pouches in the definition of alternative tobacco products and establish new tax on electronic nicotine products/alternative tobacco products. This bill is support of the American Lung Association (ALA), American Cancer Society (ACS), American Heart Association (AHA), and Tobacco Free North Dakota (TFND).

Awesome testimony from Break Free Youth Board Members: Moorea Knapp, Ben Guthmiller, and Ryan Wagner. Amy Heuer, Bismarck Tobacco Free Executive Board Member and Megan Schneider, President of BTF Coalition.

To view the testimony videos & written testimony check out the links below:

- [Testimony Submitted to the Committee](#)
- [Recorded Committee Hearings](#)

On Thursday February 13th, HB 1570 was heard on the House floor. The results, 32 yeas – 52 nays – 9 absent. The bill failed. Please take time to pause, pat yourself on the back, and celebrate the effort! **Thank you** to all of those who lifted their voices to help elevate this conversation.

Yeas for HB 1570 from the Bismarck/Burleigh are Rep. Bosch, Rep. Karls, Rep. Klemin, Rep. and S Olson.

Thank you to the House Representatives who stood tall and voted Yay!



Bismarck Break Free Youth Board Members Providing Testimony.

NDPHA Conference

The North Dakota Public Health Conference is the inaugural conference hosted by the North Dakota Public Health Association and the North Dakota Environmental Health Association in partnership with North Dakota Health and Human Services and Bismarck State College.

This conference will engage participants on a variety of public health topics such as environmental health, infectious disease, immunizations, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, community health and public health leadership. Attendees are encouraged to collaborate with other public health professionals and explore innovative programs and share insights that will shape the future of public health.

This conference includes keynote speakers, a variety of breakout speakers, poster presentations, an evening social and an awards presentation. Whether you're a public health student, public health nurse, researcher, educator, health professions student, provider, public health professional or anyone interested in improving public health, we've got a comprehensive agenda on multiple public health topics.

Early Bird Registration is currently open at this time until April 11th, 2025. If you would like to register for this event, visit <https://ndphconference.com/register/>.



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