



MOTION Coalition

Michigan Organizations To Impact Obesity & Nutrition

An initiative of Authority Health

HOUSE BILL 4999

The MOTION Coalition (Michigan Organization To Impact Obesity & Nutrition) is a coalition of 60 community, youth and healthcare organizations in Southeast Michigan with a mission to accelerate organizational and community efforts that promote physical activity and healthy eating to optimize health and well-being.

The MOTION Coalition is opposed to House Bill 4999, which would limit the options of government for instituting policies that would promote public health.

The use of fees related to certain products, such as tobacco and alcoholic beverages has served to limit consumption, improve health and promote revenue for the greater good of society. These same fees could substantially reduce high sugary beverage consumption, which is an important contributor to obesity. In fact, evidence suggests that reducing the consumption of sugary beverages can be the single most effective intervention in reducing the prevalence of obesity in the U.S.

Today more than one-third (36.5%) of U.S. adults and 17% of U.S. children are obese. For those in the U.S. who are obese, their medical costs are 42% more than individuals of a healthy weight. Annually this equates to \$1,429 more for obese individuals or \$147 billion collectively. But, ultimately the skyrocketing cost of healthcare related to obesity is a burden we all share.

By prohibiting local units of government from “imposing an excise tax on the manufacture, distribution, or sale of food,” the legislation would pre-empt the effectiveness of communities to improve health, effectively imposing the will of the state on the freedom of localities.

As such, the MOTION Coalition strongly recommends a no vote on House Bill 4999.