

FREEDOM *from* TOBACCO

“There’s a lot of research that shows that increased tobacco tax results in less smokers, thus less heart attacks and heart disease. It’s all about dollars and cents. What if one dollar could save 44,000 lives every year? That resonates with people.”

JULIE CLARY, M.D.

Cardiologist, Indiana University Health

By now, the dangers of smoking are common knowledge in the United States. And yet, cardiologists such as Julie Clary, M.D., work every day to educate individuals in hopes of ending the smoking epidemic.

Dr. Clary, an IU Health cardiologist, sees progress with statewide initiatives that ban smoking in public places and supports an increase in the tobacco tax to further reduce smoking rates. She stands with IU Health and the IU School of Medicine’s efforts to understand and prevent the blight of tobacco on the state.

“I want to keep patients from ever smoking so they don’t have to deal with the consequences, that’s the best thing I can ever do,” said Dr. Clary. “If I can keep patients from needing treatment, I am doing my job.”

IU Health has partnered with other organizations such as the Alliance for a Healthier Indiana, American Cancer



Society and American Lung Association to fight to increase the tobacco tax in hopes that the higher prices will discourage smoking and reduce the financial and health burden across the state.

Dr. Clary’s children are another important reason she wants to increase the tobacco tax.

“I don’t want my kids to ever suffer from anything that I can avoid for them,” she said. “I do everything in my power, in a healthy way, to shelter and protect them. I want them to live happy and healthy lives, and smoking is a burden to their health.”

Dr. Clary believes the future looks much brighter without cigarettes. “My goal is to help Hoosiers see the light beyond cigarettes. I want to help them quit so they can live fuller and happier lives.”



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IN THE NATION

Indiana has one of the country’s highest smoking rates. A tax increase would allow the state to provide additional resources to lower the smoking rate and save lives.