



**CITY OF NEW HAVEN
BOARD OF ALDERS**

Abigail Roth
Alder, Ward 7

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Member:
Aldermanic Affairs Committee
City Services and Environmental Policy
Committee
Public Safety Committee

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4 March 2015

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee,

I am writing to express my great concern over the proposed elimination in Governor Malloy's biennial budget of the \$12 million annual transfer from the Master Tobacco Settlement to the CT Tobacco and Health Trust Fund (THTF) in both FY 2016 and 2017. The plan also dangerously includes reducing the THTF transfers by 50% when they are reinstated in 2018.

This \$24 million sweep of the funds over the next two years would leave the THTF with a zero fund balance and bring to a halt most Tobacco Prevention and Control activities, initiatives and programs in Connecticut. These activities to date have reduced tobacco initiation and use, increased cessation attempts and quits, and reduced the morbidity and mortality associated with tobacco use. The proposed cut is short sighted and will end up costing the state in increased rates of illness and death.

I am a member of the Board of Alders in New Haven and part of Mayor Toni Harp's coalition to have a Tobacco Free New Haven. Part of this effort is to ensure current tobacco users know about the great resources available to them to stop using tobacco. The proposed budget cuts will greatly harm New Haven's effort to become tobacco-free and to improve the health of its residents.

Public health is worth investing in. We will pay for not making the investment in the long run.

Thank you for considering my strong concerns.

Sincerely,

ABIGAIL ROTH
Alder, 7th Ward