

Groups object to House sustaining Jindal veto

Written by

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BATON ROUGE -- The House action today sustaining Gov. Bobby Jindal's veto immediately brought criticism from a national health group and a state budget watchdog.

"The Legislature tried to do the right thing today and we're proud of their effort," said Andrew Muhl, director of the Louisiana office of the American Cancer Society. "Unfortunately, Gov. Jindal's decision to make cigarettes more affordable is appalling. History will not look upon him or this issue favorably."

Edward Ashworth, director of the Louisiana Budget Project, said "The governor's decision to veto HB 591 was the worst choice a leader could make. It is a bad policy that will affect our state's health, budget, and future."

Ashworth said lowering the tax on cigarettes makes them more attractive to young people.

"By failing to override the governor's veto, the Legislature has chosen the governor's political needs over the needs of the state

and the people," he said.

"Louisiana's ability to attract jobs to the state depends on having an attractive workforce for prospective employers," he said. "Currently, Louisianans are some of the unhealthiest, uneducated, and poorest in the country. The Legislature's failure to extend the 4 cent tax on cigarettes will make that situation worse."

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