



**AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM**

GROVER G. NORQUIST

PRESIDENT

## LEGISLATIVE ALERT

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### **RATINGS ALERT:**

#### **AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM WILL RATE SENATE AMENDMENT TO RAISE TOBACCO TAX**

**Adding insult to injury**, the proposed Senate budget, which contains the largest tax increase in American history, is now being offered an amendment to raise the cigarette tax by as much as 61 cents.

Allowing the existing tax cuts to expire is not needed. Yet, even with \$2.1 trillion of tax increases, the tax and spend crowd are seeking to raise even more taxes to finance even higher levels of spending.

The Smith amendment seeks to raise the tobacco tax over 150 percent in order to finance more healthcare spending. If healthcare is a priority then the government should first reduce wasteful government spending. The proposed budget exceeds \$2.9 trillion and there are plenty of places to cut from the spending side.

**Given this, Americans for Tax Reform will rate a vote for a tobacco tax increase as a vote against taxpayers in our annual congressional ratings.**

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