The Tobacco Tax Equity Act

ACTION
The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) urges Congress to pass The Tobacco Tax Equity Act that would increase and equalize tobacco taxes across the board. The Tobacco Tax Equity Act was introduced by Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL) and Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) [H.R. 2786/S. 1314].

HISTORY
- Federal tobacco taxes have not been increased in more than a decade.
- E-cigarettes will be taxed for the first time ever at the federal level.
- Differentials in the tax rate for different tobacco products have created loopholes and incentives for tax avoidance.

BACKGROUND
- Increasing tobacco taxes will also help reduce health disparities.
- Raising tobacco prices, including through higher taxes, is one of the most effective ways to reduce tobacco use, especially among youth, who are more sensitive to changes in price than adults.
- It is estimated that this bill would prevent 507,000 youth alive today from becoming smokers, preventing smoking-related disease and premature deaths.
- Tobacco use is one of the preventable causes of death in the United States.
- This is a public health bill that impacts students and their families.