

May 28, 2013

Contact:

Shannon Cotsoradis

President and CEO

785-232-0550

shannon@kac.org

Attorney General releases details of tobacco arbitration Predicted revenue declines threaten Children's Initiatives Fund

TOPEKA – Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt has made public a letter that provides the details of the arbitration settlement reached between tobacco companies and 19 states including Kansas, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The letter shows that tobacco revenues are expected to decline in the coming years, putting programs funded by the Children's Initiatives Fund at risk.

“We now know tobacco revenues will be substantially less in the future,” said Shannon Cotsoradis, president and CEO of Kansas Action for Children. “We’re calling on lawmakers to consider the long-term implications of raiding the endowment for children’s programs given what we have learned from the attorney general’s disclosure.”

The release of the letter after business hours Friday came after Kansas Action for Children submitted several Kansas Open Records Act requests and filed a petition in Shawnee County District Court to obtain information about Kansas’ portion of the settlement.

With the Legislature expected to vote this week on a state budget that moves \$9.5 million in tobacco dollars from the endowment for children’s programs to the State General Fund, it appears this information may have arrived too late.

“The attorney general’s foot dragging on this matter has hindered lawmakers’ ability to fully understand the implications of sweeping these tobacco monies to the State General Fund instead of keeping them in the endowment and providing long-term stability for children’s programs,” said Cotsoradis.

-30-



720 SW Jackson | Suite 201
Topeka, KS 66603

P: 785-232-0550 | F: 785-232-0699
kac@kac.org | www.kac.org

Shaping policy that puts children first

President & CEO
Shannon Cotsoradis

Board of Directors

Pat Anderson
Matt Badsky
Jeffrey Colvin, MD
Tina DeLaRosa
Sue Evans
Susan Fetsch, PhD, RN
Judy Frick
Ximena Garcia, MD
Susan Garlinghouse
Becky Holmquist
Jermee Jones
Marta Kennedy
Angie Knackstedt, BSN, RN-BC
Rhonda Lewis, PhD, MPH
Francis Mascarenhas
Sarah Mays
Bill McEachen, MD
Adrienne Olejnik
Jamie Schmaltz

*A Member of Voices
for America's Children*