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Louisiana Budget Project

PROVIDING INDEPENDENT,
NONPARTISAN research and analysis
of Louisiana fiscal issues and their
impact on low and moderate
income residents.

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NO OVERRIDE OF GOV. JINDAL'S CIGARETTE TAX RENEWAL VETO

(Baton Rouge – June 16, 2011) Louisiana legislators failed to override Gov. Bobby Jindal's veto of the cigarette tax renewal bill.

"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," said Edward Ashworth, Director of the Louisiana Budget Project. "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."

Although this bill originally passed overwhelmingly in each chamber many legislators were scared to vote against the governor.

"Louisiana's ability to attract jobs to the state depends on having an attractive workforce for prospective employers. 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," said Ashworth. "Now he is supporting an increase in cancer, more teen smoking, and reduced revenues for health care."

The Baton Rouge-based Louisiana Budget Project provides independent research and analysis of Louisiana fiscal issues and their impact on low and moderate income residents.

For more information on LBP, visit www.labudget.org.

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