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<http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/opinion/x1886925749/Direct-Line-5-Local-candidates-speak>

Sara Orozco, Democrat

Tobacco use is the number one cause of preventable death and disease in Massachusetts. Massachusetts taxpayers spend approximately \$3.54 billion each year in health care costs for illnesses directly caused by smoking.

This spring, constituents of the district called my opponent to urge his support for the proposed \$1 tobacco tax, informing him the tax hike would prevent kids from starting to smoke and help smokers quit. Despite those facts, he told them he would vote against the proposal.

Fortunately, his colleagues in the Legislature prevailed.

The recent tax increase was coupled with a massive campaign to help smokers quit with the Smoker's Quitline and free nicotine patches. Demand has been unprecedented and nearly 10,000 smokers have tried to quit. This is great news!

As state senator, I will fight for political solutions to this public health problem that causes 9,000 premature and painful deaths in Massachusetts each year.

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