

In the Declaration of Independence, our founding fathers originally, and we as American citizens in succession, claim the rights to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. These rights are not tainted, and are in fact, fully supported and reinforced by our United States Constitution. Should any or all citizens decide that a diet consisting of high fat content foods, sugary candies, ice cream or sodas is to their liking, then they should have every right to consume whatever they please, whenever they please. Neither the Federal Government nor state and local governments should have any ability to dictate diets; whether this is through outright bans of product categories, or taxation of certain product sales in an attempt to regulate behavior. These attempts to usurp the decisions of the citizens, in managing their lives, are both a restriction of their liberties and a curtailing of their pursuit of happiness.

The Federal Government (along with state and local governments) is considering this power grab, under the assumption of it's interest in our health based on Federal expenditures on Medicare, Medicaid and the soon to be legislated government boondoggle known as Universal Health Care. The progressives, who can be traced back at least as far as Teddy Roosevelt, and forward through FDR, Johnson, Clinton and now Barak Obama, are finally on their way to achieving their ultimate goal; the 'Federal Nanny State'. What the various legislative bodies have accomplished in their unprecedented attacks on tobacco and tobacco products around this country, also supported in part by arguments of the government's interest in our health, will be repeated in the battle over sugar, fat and in the future almost any 'unhealthy' product or service these bodies can image.

The recently enacted and universally burdensome S-CHIP taxes on tobacco were framed as 'urgently necessary' to help the poor uninsured children. A reading of the bill will show that families earning up to \$80,000 fully qualify for this program. This was no necessity. This was a convenient excuse to tax an unpopular minority of smokers, and increase the power of the government. The proposed sugar, fat and soda taxes are more of the same. More power to government, less money and liberty for the citizens. If we allow this next slice of liberty to fall away, we can look forward to much more of the same. Those citizens who are paying attention have heard rumblings of taxing on cows and cattle as their flatulence adds to global warming; cap and trade taxation on all our energy production for like reasons; increases in gasoline taxes to force us into smaller, more fuel efficient cars and a veritable laundry list of causes and behavior modification taxes that boggles the mind.

We must realize what is occurring to this country before our very eyes, and soon. As the frog remaining in the pot whose temperature is gradually raised until death, the regressive sin taxation on sweets will turn up the temperature on us all a few more degrees as the S-CHIP in turn has already accomplished.

Patriots in Boston rebelled against taxation without representation in their Tea Party over two and a quarter centuries ago. Today, we must realize that taxation, even with so-called representation, can spell death to our liberty. It's only a matter of degrees.

No tax on fat. No tax on sugar. No tax on soda and sweets. Repeal the S-Chip and defeat government health care. End the nanny state.