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It is wonderful news that teen smoking has decreased in North Carolina, and the prevention initiatives should be commended (news story, Dec. 29).

Unfortunately, smoking rates among North Carolina adults have not decreased. More needs to be done to help the 1.5 million adults who are still smoking to quit. Raising the cigarette tax by \$1 a pack would drive down the smoking rate even lower for teens and overall.

We need stronger laws to protect every North Carolinian's right to breathe smoke-free air. And there needs to be easier access to low- or no-cost quitting medicines to help any tobacco-user quit. Call 1-800-784-8669 to quit.

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Melva Fager Okun
 Senior Health Promotion Manager, NC
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