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Youth Anti-Smoking Groups

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I am writing this letter in response to the article printed in the Star News on December 29th titled "Programs showing success". I am very happy to see that these Youth Anti-Smoking Groups are finally getting the recognition they deserve. I am involved with a group named Question Why, who serves all of North Carolina in anti-smoking efforts, and it is not an easy battle. As all of you know, North Carolina is heavily reliant on tobacco, it is a main part of our economy and many of NC's residents have grown up with tobacco everywhere, it is undeniably a major part of North Carolina's history. Now with that stated, imagine being in a group that is trying to make the future differ from "history". It is not an easy effort, many are opposed to the existence of anti-tobacco groups, especially youth ones. But without these groups more and more teens will fall into the addiction of tobacco products. Especially in North Carolina, where tobacco is on every corner. I believe that these groups do a lot, and are often under appreciated. These teens are dedicating a lot of their time for a great cause, and so few people in North Carolina even know that these groups exist. I think these groups should have more exposure in local media, and be more locally recognized for their efforts.

John Russell
Wilmington

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