

## A Fat Tax for America?

### 向胖人征税?

英语学习点: *Fines Vocabulary and Conditionals* 有关罚款的词汇和条件句

If a new idea in America becomes a law, people who suffer from **obesity** could suffer financially too.

The US state of Arizona wants to **charge** overweight citizens \$50 (325 Yuan) annually if they fail to follow their doctors' advice. People with children or who are overweight because they suffer from a medical condition would be **exempt**.



*The proposal aims to encourage people to be healthy*

If the idea is approved by Congress, smokers and diabetics who fail to **stick to** a healthy lifestyle will also have to pay.

Medicaid, the organisation which provides healthcare to the poor in the USA, costs the government \$339bn (2.2 trillion Yuan) a year. Monica Coury, assistant director at Arizona's Medicaid programme, said that this **proposal** would ask people **to give something back**.

She said that Arizona would take **a carrot and stick approach** to the problem. As well as **penalising** people who go against their doctor's wishes, **incentives** would be offered for following advice, possibly a keep-fit video.

Arizona's senator Kyrsten Sinema has not backed the plans, saying that there isn't a system to decide whether someone is or isn't following medical advice. Other critics claim that people don't need the government to look after them; if they want to be fat and smoke, **the 'nanny state'** shouldn't try to stop them. Wes Benedict of the Libertarian Party said:

"If you want to save the state money... cut Medicaid **across the board**, but don't **single out** overweight people and smokers."

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

## Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. If the proposal gets approved, will all obese people have to pay the fine?
2. Who receives money from Medicaid?
3. Is this statement true, false or not given? *Medicaid costs a lot, so the proposal is likely to be approved.*
4. Is this statement true, false or not given? *The proposed scheme is a mixture of rewards and punishments.*
5. Look at the article. Can you find a noun which means 'a reason for doing something'?

## Exercise 练习

测试一下你对条件句的掌握。选择方框内正确的表达完成句子。

1. If the proposal \_\_\_\_\_ some obese people will have to pay a fifty dollar fine.

was approved	is approved	approved	will be approved
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2. If the new law were passed, smokers who ignore their doctors \_\_\_\_\_ pay a fine too.

should	will have to	would have to	wouldn't
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3. If obesity wasn't so costly, this scheme \_\_\_\_\_ proposed.

might have been	might never have been	might be	might not be
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4. Some people think: "If I want to smoke, the government \_\_\_\_\_ me."

should let	should have let	will let	shall let
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5. Some say that if the government \_\_\_\_\_ to cut Medicaid it should do so differently.

has wanted	will want	wanted	wants
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## Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

### Quiz 小测验

1. If the proposal gets approved, will all obese people have to pay the fine? No, some people will be exempt, so they won't have to pay.
2. Who receives money from Medicaid? Poor people.
3. Is this statement true, false or not given? *Medicaid costs a lot, so the proposal is likely to be approved.* Not given. There is no indication in the text of whether the proposal is likely to be approved.
4. Is this statement true, false or not given? *The proposed scheme is a mixture of rewards and punishments.* True. This is the meaning of the phrase 'carrot and stick'.
5. Look at the article. Can you find a noun which means 'a reason for doing something'? Incentive.

### Exercise 练习

1. If the proposal is approved some obese people will have to pay a fifty dollar fine.
2. If the new law were passed, smokers who ignore their doctors would have to pay a fine too.
3. If obesity wasn't so costly, this scheme might never have been proposed.
4. Some people think: "If I want to smoke, the government should let me."
5. Some say that if the government wants to cut Medicaid it should do so differently.

### Glossary 词汇表

obesity 肥胖、肥胖症	to charge someone 向某人收费
exempt 被豁免的	to stick to something 坚持、遵守做某事
proposal 提议	to give something back 偿还某物
a carrot and stick approach " 胡萝卜加大棒" 政策 (奖赏与惩罚的政策)	to penalise someone 对某人予以惩罚
incentive 奖励	the 'nanny state' " 保姆国家"
across the board 全盘地、所有人员都包括在内 地	to single out 挑选、单独选出