The Democrats in Congress are anxious for universal health care, but to pay for this expensive and intrusive endeavor they have decided to increase taxes on tobacco, always a popular target. In order to raise $35 billion to $50 billion dollars to expand the state children's health insurance program ... The Democrats in Congress are anxious for universal health care, but to pay for this expensive and intrusive endeavor they have decided to increase taxes on tobacco, always a popular target. In order to raise $35 billion to $50 billion dollars to expand the state children's health insurance program (SCHIP), they will hike taxes on cigarettes from 39 cents per pack to $1 per, an increase of 256%. But along with cigarettes, their tax increase will also target cigars and although cigars are only a fraction of domestic tobacco sales, their tax increase on the cigar industry will go from a 4.8 cent per cigar cap to a $10 per cigar cap...that is a tax increase of 20,000 percent to fund government run health care.