

February XX, 2007

Dear Senator/Representative:

Congress has an historic opportunity to embrace responsible legislation that will help to reduce the suffering and death caused by tobacco. Bipartisan legislation has been introduced by Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA) and Senator John Cornyn (R-TX), S 625, in the U.S. Senate and by Representatives Henry Waxman (D-CA) and Tom Davis (R-VA), HR 1108, in the U.S. House of Representatives to give the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) the authority to regulate the tobacco industry for the first time, ending the exceptional protection granted only to tobacco companies and to no other industry.

In 2004, the U.S. Senate voted overwhelmingly, 78-15 to grant the FDA effective authority to regulate tobacco products, but the legislation ultimately died in a conference committee. Forty-three years have passed since the U.S. Surgeon General reported on the unquestionable dangers of smoking. Since that time, tobacco products have become the largest single preventable cause of death in America while Congress has yet to take meaningful action.

Tobacco use kills more than 400,000 Americans each year and costs our nation more than \$96 billion in health care costs. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, tobacco use by pregnant women alone costs between \$400-500 million per year due to complications such as low birth weight, premature births and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). And every day Congress fails to act, another 1,000 kids become regular smokers, one-third of whom will die prematurely as a result. Yet tobacco products are virtually unregulated to protect consumers' health and safety. For decades, the tobacco companies have marketed their deadly products to our children, deceived consumers about the harm their products cause, and failed to take any meaningful action to make their products less harmful or less addictive. The Kennedy-Cornyn and Waxman-Davis bills would finally end the exceptional protection enjoyed by the tobacco industry and protect our children and the nation's health instead.

This legislation meets the standards long established by the public health community for a strong FDA tobacco regulation bill that protects the public health. It would give the FDA the necessary tools and resources to effectively regulate the manufacturing, marketing, labeling, distribution and sale of tobacco products. The FDA would have the authority to:

- Stop illegal sales of tobacco products to children and adolescents.
- Require changes in tobacco products, such as the reduction or elimination of harmful chemicals, to make them less harmful and less addictive.
- Restrict advertising and promotions that appeal to children and adolescents.
- Prohibit unsubstantiated health claims about so-called "reduced risk" tobacco products that discourage current tobacco users from quitting or encourage new users to start.
- Require the disclosure of tobacco product content and tobacco industry research about the health effects of their products.
- Require larger and more informative health warnings on tobacco products.

This much-needed bipartisan FDA legislation protects the public's health and should be enacted in this session of Congress. We remain concerned that opponents of effective FDA tobacco regulation will seek to weaken the bills. Our organizations will work vigorously to protect the bills as they currently exist and will oppose efforts to eliminate or weaken the FDA authority they provide. Please support the Kennedy-Cornyn, S625, and Waxman-Davis, HR 1108, FDA bills and oppose any and all weakening changes.

Following this letter is a list of public health, faith and other organizations representing millions of people from across the country that have endorsed this legislation and are actively working to see it enacted into law.

Sincerely,

National Organizations (68)

American Cancer Society
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
AARP
Academy of General Dentistry
Alliance of the American Dental Association
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Academy of Periodontology
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Cancer Research
American Association of Dental Editors
American Association of Dental Examiners
American Association for Dental Research
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
American Association of Orthodontists
American Association of Public Health Dentistry
American Association for Respiratory Care
American College of Cardiology
American College of Chest Physicians
American College of Dentists
American College of Prosthodontists
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventative Medicine
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Dental Hygienists' Association
American Medical Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society of Addiction Medicine
American Society of Clinical Oncology

American Student Dental Association.
American Thoracic Society
Americans For Health Care
Association of Community Cancer Centers
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Children's Defense Fund
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America
Family USA
First Focus
Hadassah – the Women's Zionist Organization of America
Hispanic Dental Association
March of Dimes
National African American Tobacco Prevention Network
National Association of County & City Health Officials
National Association of Local Boards of Health
National Dental Association
National Education Association
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Latino Council on Alcohol and Tobacco Prevention
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Research Center for Women & Families
National Women's Law Center
Oncology Nursing Society
Oral Health America
Partnership for Prevention
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Society for Public Health Education
The Lance Armstrong Foundation
Trust for America's Health

Faith United Against Tobacco (25)

American Baptist Churches of the South
American Baptist Churches USA
Brethren Witness/Washington Office
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
Church Women United
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, Southern Baptist Convention
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
General Board of Church and Society, United Methodist Church
General Commission on United Methodist Men
Health Ministries Association
Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility
International Parish Nurse Resource Center
Interreligious Coalition on Smoking or Health
Islamic Society of North America
National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA

National Episcopal Health Ministries
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
Seventh-day Adventists
United Church of Christ
United Methodist Church
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
Women's Division, GBGM, United Methodist Church
World Sikh Council - America Region

State/Local Organizations (109)

American Lung Association of Arizona
American Lung Association of Arkansas
American Lung Association of Alaska
American Lung Association of Colorado
American Lung Association of Connecticut
American Lung Association of Delaware
American Lung Association of Florida
American Lung Association of Georgia
American Lung Association of Hawaii
American Lung Association of Idaho
American Lung Association of Illinois
American Lung Association of Indiana
American Lung Association of Iowa
American Lung Association of Kentucky
American Lung Association of Louisiana
American Lung Association of Maine
American Lung Association of Maryland
American Lung Association of Massachusetts
American Lung Association of Michigan
American Lung Association of Minnesota
American Lung Association of Mississippi
American Lung Association of Montana
American Lung Association of Nevada
American Lung Association of New Jersey
American Lung Association of New Mexico
American Lung Association of New York
American Lung Association of North Carolina
American Lung Association of North Dakota
American Lung Association of Ohio
American Lung Association of Oregon
American Lung Association of Pennsylvania
American Lung Association of Rhode Island
American Lung Association of South Carolina
American Lung Association of South Dakota
American Lung Association of Tennessee
American Lung Association of the Central States Serving Kansas
American Lung Association of the Central States Serving Missouri
American Lung Association of the Central States Serving Nebraska

American Lung Association of the Central States Serving Oklahoma
American Lung Association of the Central States Serving Texas
American Lung Association of the City of New York
American Lung Association of Utah
American Lung Association of Vermont
American Lung Association of Virginia
American Lung Association of Washington
American Lung Association of Wisconsin
American Lung Association of Wyoming
American Lung Association of West Virginia
American Association for Cancer Research
AOD Partnership of Western Michigan
Arizona Public Health Association
Association of Community Cancer Centers
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America - New England Chapter
Asthma Coalitions of Mississippi
Better Breathers Club – Jackson, MS
Better Breathers Club – Hattiesburg, MS
Better Breathers Club – Biloxi, MS
Bon Secours Virginia
Briarwood United Methodist Church – Jackson, MS
Comprehensive School Health Coordinators’ Association – MI
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Delaware Dental Hygienists’
Delaware Kick Butts Generation
Hempstead High Health Center
Illinois Public Health Association
Image Enterprise Group, LLC
IMPACT Delaware Tobacco Prevention Coalition
Jackson County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition
Learning Express Academy, Delaware
Liberty Baptist Church – Flowood, MS
Loma Linda University School of Dentistry, CA
Loma Linda University School of Public Health, CA
Long Island Allergy and Asthma Society
Long Island Lesbian Cancer Initiative
Madison County Department of Health
March of Dimes – Nevada Chapter
Maryland PIRG
Mass Health Officers
Maturity Today Magazine
Metro Omaha Tobacco Action Coalition
Metropolitan Washington Public Health Association
Mississippi Thoracic Society
Nebraska State Association of County & City Health Officials - Lincoln, NE
Nevada Public Health Foundation
Nevada Tobacco Prevention Coalition
New York City Asthma Partnership
New York State Public Health Association, Nassau-Suffolk Region
North Carolina Alliance for Health
Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Southern Nevada Health District

Ohio African American Communities for Optimum Health
Oklahoma Public Health Association
Operation Tobacco-Free Nevada/Tobacco-Free Babies Project, The Pregnancy Center
Partnership for a Healthy Population (Valhalla, NY)
Pitt County Memorial Hospital – NC
Prohealth Care Associates, LLC (Lake Success, NY)
Public Health Association of Nebraska – Lincoln, NE
Putnam Family and Community Services (Carmel, NY)
Putnam Valley Central Schools, Health Advisory Council
Syracuse Center of Excellence in Environmental and Energy Systems
Tennessee Public Health Association
The Coalition for a Tobacco Free Utah
The Utah Cancer Action Network
Tobacco Free Mass
University of Delaware, School of Nursing and Health Sciences
Vermont Public Health Association
Virginia Primary Care Association
WakeMed – North Carolina
Wyoming Cancer Control Consortium