



March 16, 2010

The Honorable Anthony Weiner  
 United States House of Representatives  
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Weiner:

We are writing in support of your bill, the Prevent All Cigarette Trafficking Act, which we hope will soon be enacted into law. The PACT Act will help make it harder for children to purchase tobacco products over the Internet and stop the illegal sale of tax-evading tobacco products.

Individuals and businesses that sell cigarettes and smokeless tobacco products through the Internet or other mail-order sales often do not have sufficient safeguards to prevent sales to children nor do they ensure that applicable tobacco taxes are paid. The Internet provides an easier way for children to purchase tobacco products than attempting to purchase them in person from a retailer who would check their age and identification. Illegal Internet sales of untaxed cigarettes and smokeless tobacco also undermine the public health benefit of tobacco taxes, which are one of the most effective means of reducing tobacco use, especially among young people. Moreover, untaxed tobacco products deprive state and local governments of revenues that are needed to fund important services, including those that promote public health.

The PACT Act, which enjoys broad bipartisan support, will put new barriers in the way of illegal Internet sellers and will give federal and state enforcement officials the additional tools they need to get the job done. Among other things, the PACT Act will (1) require Internet and mail order sellers to verify a purchaser's age and identity before sale and use delivery methods that verify the age and identity of the person accepting delivery, and (2) require all excise taxes on cigarettes and smokeless tobacco be paid to the applicable state, local or Tribal governments before delivery.

The House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved your original bill (H.R. 1676) last year by a vote of 397 to 11. The Senate approved a slightly modified version of the bill (S. 1147) last week that the House will have to approve before it can be sent to the President. The time has come to enact this important legislation. The PACT Act will help keep cigarettes and smokeless tobacco out of the hands of children and reduce the devastating toll that tobacco takes on the public's health.

Sincerely,

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American Heart Association  
American Lung Association  
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners  
American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery  
American Association for Respiratory Care  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Chest Physicians  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Dental Association  
American Medical Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Society of Addiction Medicine  
American Thoracic Society  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Lung Cancer Alliance  
National Association of City and County Health Officials  
National Research Center for Women & Families Cancer Prevention and Treatment Fund  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Partnership for Prevention  
Society for Public Health Education  
Society of Invasive Cardiovascular Professionals  
United Methodist Church – The General Board of Church and Society  
United Way Worldwide