

Faith United Against Tobacco



August 21, 2006

SAMPLE OF LETTER SENT TO ALL CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES

Dear XXX:

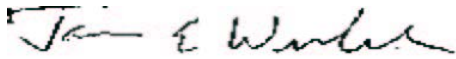
We are writing to you as leaders of Faith United Against Tobacco, a faith coalition comprised of clergy and lay members throughout the country, to strongly urge you to support H.R. 1376, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act sponsored by Representative Tom Davis (R-VA). We in the faith community believe that our nation's leaders, and particularly our Members of Congress, have a moral obligation to do all they can to protect Americans, especially children, from tobacco addiction and disease. While we may disagree on other issues this is an issue on which we are united.

H.R. 1376 is strong, bipartisan legislation supported by the public health community that gives the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authority over tobacco products. This bill would allow the FDA to prevent tobacco companies from adding ever more deadly and addictive ingredients, prohibit candy-flavored cigarettes, prevent tobacco sales to underage children and limit advertising and promotion of tobacco products that lure children into a deadly habit. We find it incredible that the FDA can ensure the safety of everyday items like macaroni and cheese, but has no authority over tobacco, a product that kills over 400,000 Americans every year. No one wants too much government regulation, but this bill will simply treat tobacco manufacturers like the manufacturers of other products – it will level the playing field and assure the protection of consumers and our children.

Over the last few years, Faith United Against Tobacco has been working to draw attention to the need for FDA oversight of tobacco products. We have spoken out on this issue because we have spent too much time burying mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers who die because they became addicted to tobacco products when they were young. We know that the tobacco companies continue to spend billions of dollars marketing their deadly product to children and far too many high school students smoke. It is time to protect our children and families. We ask that you publicly announce your strong support for H.R. 1376, and that you will cosponsor the legislation, if elected.

If you have any questions or would like to reply to this request, please contact Vinny DeMarco, National Coordinator, Faith United Against Tobacco, at (410) 591-9162.


Sincerely,



James Winkler, General Secretary
General Board of Church and Society United Methodist Church



Dr. DeWitt Williams, Director
Health Ministries, North American Division
Seventh Day Adventists



Sarah Ward, President
Woman's Christian Temperance Union



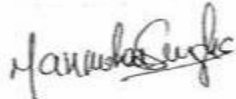
Julie Taylor, Executive Secretary for Children, Youth and Family Advocacy
Women's Division, GBGM
United Methodist Church



Dr. Sayyid M. Syeed, Secretary General
Islamic Society of North America



Reverend William G. Sinkford, President, Unitarian Universalist
Association of Congregations



Manmohan Singh, Secretary General, World Sikh-Council-America Region



Curtis Ramsey-Lucas, National Coordinator, Public and Social Advocacy
American Baptist Churches USA



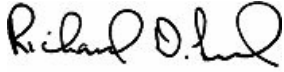
Reverend Deborah L. Patterson, Executive Director
International Parish Nurse Resource Center



Bishop Douglas Miles, Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance



Peggy Matteson, President, Health Ministries Association



Dr. Richard D. Land, President, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission
Southern Baptist Convention



Phillip Jones, Director, Brethren Witness/Washington Office
Church of the Brethren



Reverend Elenora Giddings Ivory, Director
Presbyterian Church (USA) Washington Office



Andrew Genzler, Director for Domestic Policy, Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America



Reverend Bob Edgar, General Secretary
National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA



Jean Denton, National Episcopal Health Ministries



Reverend Ruben Cruz, Church Finance Council, Christian Church (Disciples
of Christ)



Reverend Michael H. Crosby, OFMCap., Coordinator Tobacco Program
Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility



Patricia G. Burkhardt, Legislative Officer
Church Women United



Roy Branson, Co-Chair
Inter-religious Coalition on Smoking or Health



Barbara Baylor, M.P.H.
Minister for Health and Wellness
United Church of Christ