



April 19, 2006

Name
Address
CityStateZip

TRANSMITTED VIA FAX: Fax

Dear Salutation:

We are writing to you on behalf of Ohio Faith United Against Tobacco, a coalition of over 17 denominations and faith organizations in Ohio, to strongly urge you to cosponsor H.R. 1376, introduced by Representative Thomas Davis (R-VA), legislation requiring effective regulation of tobacco products by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Tobacco remains the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, killing over 400,000 Americans every year, yet it is not regulated by the federal government. We believe that it is high time for Congress to address this moral issue and enact strong legislation supported by the public health community to give the FDA the authority to regulate tobacco products.

Until Congress grants the FDA this authority, the tobacco companies will be free to continue selling candy-flavored cigarettes with names like *Twista Lime*, *Strawberry Liquid Zoo* and *Caribbean Chill* and engage in other marketing that appeals to children. They will continue to mislead consumers and discourage smokers from quitting by making unproven claims that some tobacco products are safer than others. And they will continue to hide the truth about the dangers of their products and fail to take even the most minimal steps to reduce the number of Americans who die from tobacco use.

The faith community spends too much time burying mothers, fathers, sisters, and brothers who die because they became addicted to tobacco products when they were young. We know all too well that the tobacco companies continue to spend billions of dollars to addict people to this deadly product. We also know that the federal government can reduce the staggering addiction rate, particularly among vulnerable children, by fully regulating tobacco products. For our children's sake, we urge you to do so.

Ohio Faith United Against Tobacco
Rev. Dee Stickley-Miner, Director of Mission and Justice
West Ohio Conference, United Methodist Church
32 Wesley Boulevard
Worthington, Ohio 43085

Our commitment goes beyond signing our names to this letter. We are asking our congregations to support this effort and to communicate the importance of this piece of legislation to their elected officials. It is our sincere hope that you will cosponsor H.R. 1376.

Sincerely,

Rev. Curtis S. Ackley
Association Minister,
Western Reserve Association,
United Church of Christ

Barbara Baylor
National Health Minister
United Church of Christ, Cleveland

Rabbi Harold Berman
Congregation Tifereth Israel
Columbus

Rev. Ronald W. Botts
First Congregational Church,
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Dr. Tarunjit Singh Butalia, Secretary,
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Alvin R. Hadley
Executive Director
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General Presbyter
Presbytery of the Western Reserve

Bishop John L. Hopkins
East Ohio Annual Conference
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Rev. John D. Keeny
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Rev. Deborah A. Dennis
Mt. Olivet Baptist Church,
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Rev. Cyndy Garn
District Superintendent, Columbus North
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Methodist Church

Rev. Terry R. Heck
Bellbrook United Methodist Church

The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.,
Bishop, Diocese of Ohio
The Episcopal Church

Rev. Andrew Jacob
Associate for Justice Ministry
Presbytery of the Western Reserve

The Very Rev. Tracey Lind, Dean,
Trinity Cathedral in the Episcopal
Diocese of Ohio

Dr. Asma Mobin-Uddin
President of CAIR-OHIO
Council on American Islamic Relations

Father Vincent McKiernan, CSP
Newman Center
The Ohio State University

Bishop Bruce R. Ough
Resident Bishop Ohio West Area
West Ohio Conference of The United
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The Rt. Rev. Kenneth L. Price, Jr., Bishop
The Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio

Audrey Smith, Chair
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District Superintendent of Cincinnati
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Resa Tobin
President of the Central Ohio Chapter
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Chris VanDenburgh
Parish Nurse Coordinator
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cc: The Honorable Mike DeWine

Dr. Don McMurry /s/ V.D.M.
Greater Dayton Association of Baptists

Rev. John S. Paddock
Christ Episcopal Church, Dayton
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