

March 26, 2001

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
United States Senate  
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

ENACT, a coalition of more than 60 national organizations dedicated to reducing the death and disease caused by tobacco use, thanks you for re-introducing the bipartisan “Medicare, Medicaid and MCH Smoking Cessation Promotion Act of 2001.” We applaud your leadership and are grateful to you and Senators Brownback, Graham and Bingaman for taking this important step. We share your goal of expanding access to safe and effective smoking cessation services through Medicare, Medicaid and state-based maternal and child health (MCH) programs. We are pleased to lend our enthusiastic support to this legislation.

In 1982, then Surgeon General C. Everett Koop said “cigarette smoking is the chief, single, avoidable cause of death in our society and the most important public health issue of our time.” Unfortunately, that statement is as true today as it was 18 years ago. Approximately 50 million Americans remain addicted to tobacco products. The vast majority of them began smoking as children, and more than 70 percent would now like to break their addiction. If we as a nation are serious about reducing the burden of tobacco-related disease, disability, and death, one thing we must do is ensure that effective smoking cessation services are within reach of all those who need them. Your bill provides an important step toward this goal.

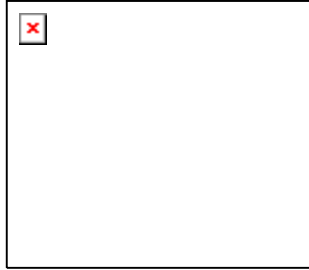
Through extensive clinical research, we know that a combination of counseling and medication will double or triple a smoker’s chances for success in quitting. We also know that smoking cessation is cost effective in relation to other disease prevention measures already reimbursed by Medicare, Medicaid and MCH programs. Therefore your proposal to promote coverage through federally supported health programs is soundly supported by health policy research. By reducing the many debilitating chronic diseases suffered by smokers, your proposal will benefit taxpayers at the same time as it extends life-saving treatment to those who need it.

We appreciate your on-going leadership on this issue. We stand prepared to work with you to see this bill enacted into law as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

American Cancer Society  
American Heart Association

Alliance for Lung Cancer Advocacy, Support, and Education  
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry  
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
American College of Chest Physicians  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
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American Public Health Association  
American Society of Addiction Medicine  
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs  
Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids  
Federation of Behavioral, Psychological and Cognitive Sciences  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of Local Boards of Health  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Oral Health America  
Partnership for Prevention  
Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco



March 26, 2001

The Honorable Sam Brownback  
United States Senate  
303 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Brownback:

ENACT, a coalition of more than 60 national organizations dedicated to reducing the death and disease caused by tobacco use, thanks you for re-introducing the bipartisan “Medicare, Medicaid and MCH Smoking Cessation Promotion Act of 2001.” We applaud your leadership and are grateful to you and Senators Durbin, Graham and Bingaman for taking this important step. We share your goal of expanding access to safe and effective smoking cessation services through Medicare, Medicaid and state-based maternal and child health (MCH) programs. We are pleased to lend our enthusiastic support to this legislation.

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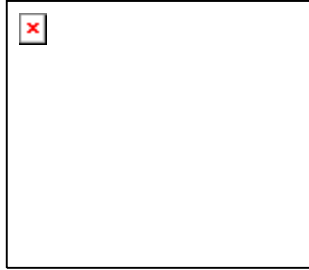
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Oncology Nursing Society  
Oral Health America  
Partnership for Prevention  
Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco



March 26, 2001

The Honorable Bob Graham  
United States Senate  
524 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Graham:

ENACT, a coalition of more than 60 national organizations dedicated to reducing the death and disease caused by tobacco use, thanks you for re-introducing the bipartisan "Medicare, Medicaid and MCH Smoking Cessation Promotion Act of 2001." We applaud your leadership and are grateful to you and Senators Durbin, Brownback, and Bingaman for taking this important step. We share your goal of expanding access to safe and effective smoking cessation services through Medicare, Medicaid and state-based maternal and child health (MCH) programs. We are pleased to lend our enthusiastic support to this legislation.

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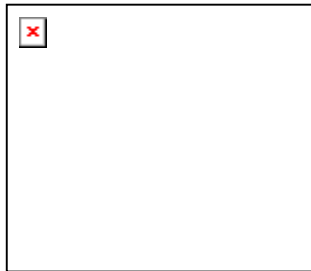
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Oral Health America  
Partnership for Prevention  
Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco



March 26, 2001

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman  
United States Senate  
703 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bingaman:

ENACT, a coalition of more than 60 national organizations dedicated to reducing the death and disease caused by tobacco use, thanks you for re-introducing the bipartisan “Medicare, Medicaid and MCH Smoking Cessation Promotion Act of 2001.” We applaud your leadership and are grateful to you and Senators Durbin, Brownback, and Graham for taking this important step. We share your goal of expanding access to safe and effective smoking cessation services through Medicare, Medicaid and state-based maternal and child health (MCH) programs. We are pleased to lend our enthusiastic support to this legislation.

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