



National Organizations Dedicated to Reducing the Death and Disease Caused by Tobacco

June 4, 2002

The «FullProperName»
U.S. House of Representatives
«Street»
Washington, DC 20515

VIA FACSIMILE: «Fax»

Dear Representative «LastName»:

Partners for Effective Tobacco Policy (PARTNERS), a coalition of more than 60 national organizations dedicated to reducing the death and disease caused by tobacco use, recommends that Congress appropriate \$130 million to support the activities of the Office on Smoking and Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC-OSH).

CDC-OSH provides national leadership to a broad spectrum of federal, state, and local government agencies, professional and voluntary organizations, and academic institutions. Each of these is working to advance a comprehensive approach to reducing tobacco use, which includes preventing young people from starting to smoke, promoting quitting, identifying and eliminating disparities in tobacco use among different population groups, and eliminating exposure to secondhand smoke.

Along with providing seed money to every state and the District of Columbia for state-based programs designed to prevent and reduce tobacco use, CDC-OSH also offers technical assistance to states for planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of their tobacco control programs. To help states implement effective programs, CDC-OSH has published information such as *Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs* and *State Tobacco Control Highlights*. These and other CDC publications recommend strategies and state-specific funding levels for enacting comprehensive programs. CDC-OSH also provides state-specific statistics on the prevalence of tobacco use, its health impact and medical costs, and other economic issues related to tobacco production and sales. CDC-OSH develops and distributes other tobacco and health information nationwide to promote positive alternatives to tobacco use, empower young people to avoid tobacco use, deglamorize tobacco use, and educate parents about raising children to be tobacco-free.

With a \$130 million appropriation, CDC-OSH will use the additional funds to expand existing activities and address concerns that have not been previously funded. For instance, with additional resources, CDC-OSH will be able to expand its capacity to provide hands-on training and technical assistance in areas such as conducting youth tobacco use surveys, developing effective media campaigns, and managing tobacco control programs. CDC-OSH will also be able to develop and disseminate to states more detailed information on such topics as creating and supporting community-based tobacco control programs and coordinating effective and comprehensive communications strategies.

As states' tobacco control programs continue to grow due to tobacco tax increases, funds generated by the 1998 legal settlement with the states, and other sources of revenue, the demand for technical assistance increases because states are developing new and more comprehensive programs. For instance, with increased resources available, more states are initiating media programs for tobacco prevention and are suddenly in need of CDC-OSH assistance to create and evaluate large media budgets. CDC-OSH plays a key role in helping states share expertise with one another as these new programs develop. In addition, CDC-OSH is planning to use these additional resources to research tobacco cessation techniques, to establish a "tobacco quitline," and to evaluate and expand current tobacco cessation programs that work.

We thank you in advance for working to ensure that CDC-OSH receives this important increase. As tobacco use is responsible for a majority of the preventable cases of disease, disability, and death in our nation as well as \$157 billion annually in health care costs and lost productivity, an investment of \$130 million in CDC-OSH will help save both money and lives. Thank you very much for your attention to this important public health matter. Should you have any questions or if you would like additional information about the CDC-OSH, please do not hesitate to contact any of the undersigned organizations.

Sincerely,

Allergy and Asthma Network - Mothers of Asthmatics, Inc.
Alliance for Lung Cancer Advocacy, Support, and Education
Alliance of Community Health Plans
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Otolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgery, Inc.
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Respiratory Care
American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin
American Cancer Society
American College of Cardiology
American College of Chest Physicians
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Association
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American School Health Association
American Society of Addiction Medicine
Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment and Leadership
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc.
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
Association of State & Territorial Health Officials

Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
Children's Defense Fund
College on Problems of Drug Dependence
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America
Council of State & Territorial Epidemiologists
Family Voices
Federation of Behavioral, Psychological and Cognitive Sciences
General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church
Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America.
Interreligious Coalition on Smoking OR Health
Latino Council on Alcohol and Tobacco Prevention
National Association of Children's Hospitals
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Local Boards of Health
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of State and Drug Abuse Directors, Inc.
National Center for Health Education
National Center for Policy Research for Women & Families
National Education Association
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Mental Health Association
National Partnership for Women and Families
Oncology Nursing Society
Oral Health America
Partnership for Prevention
Society for Public Health Education
Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco
Society of Behavioral Medicine
Society of Critical Care Medicine
Summit Health Coalition