



American Medical Association
Physicians dedicated to the health of America



July 14, 2004

«FullProperName»

«Street»

«CityStateZip»

VIA FAX: «Fax»

Dear Senator «LastName»:

The undersigned organizations urge you to cosponsor S. 2461, introduced by Senators DeWine and Kennedy, which would provide the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with effective authority to regulate the manufacturing, marketing and sale of tobacco products.

Unlike other products we consume, tobacco products are not subject to basic oversight or common sense health regulations. Tobacco is this nation's most unregulated consumer product. S. 2461 would grant FDA the authority to:

- Stop illegal sales of tobacco products to children.
- Require changes in tobacco products, such as the reduction of harmful chemicals.
- Restrict advertising and promotions that appeal to children.
- Prohibit unsubstantiated and misleading health claims about so-called "reduced risk" tobacco products
- Require the disclosure of the contents of tobacco products and of tobacco industry research about the health effects of their products.
- Require larger and more informative health warnings on tobacco products.

FDA oversight of tobacco products would help reduce the toll of tobacco. Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States, killing more than 400,000 Americans every year and costing our nation \$75 billion in health care bills. Every day, another 2,000 kids become addicted smokers, one-third of whom will die prematurely as a result. Nearly 90 percent of lung cancer cases, nearly one in three cancer deaths and one in five of deaths from heart disease are tobacco-caused.

The FDA should have the authority to stop tobacco marketing and sales to our children and to subject tobacco products to the same consumer protections, such as ingredient disclosure, product regulation and truthful packaging and advertising, applied to other products. Ironically, these common sense protections apply to food products made by tobacco giant Altria, such as Kraft Macaroni and Cheese, but not to Marlboro cigarettes made by the same company. In other words, FDA has to approve every ingredient in Kraft Macaroni and Cheese but the ammonia, formaldehyde and arsenic found in cigarettes are unregulated.

Congress can reduce the terrible toll of tobacco and prevent the tobacco companies from marketing to children by granting the FDA effective, meaningful authority over tobacco products. We urge you to cosponsor S. 2461 and join this bipartisan effort to enact legislation that would grant the FDA authority to regulate tobacco and protect America's children. Please contact any of our organizations if we can be of assistance to you or your staff.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Cancer Society
American College of Cardiology
American College of Chest Physicians
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Association
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Medical Association
American Public Health Association
American Psychological Association
American School Health Association
American Society of Addiction Medicine
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Thoracic Society
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
Association of Schools of Public Health
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
Center for Tobacco Cessation
Children's Defense Fund
Church of the Brethren Witness/Washington Office
Church Women United
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church
General Board of Global Ministries the United Methodist Church, Special Program on
Substance Abuse and Related Violence
Health Ministries Association
Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, Tobacco Program
Interreligious Coalition on Smoking or Health
Islamic Society of North America
National Latino Council on Alcohol and Tobacco Prevention
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Local Boards of Health
National Association of School Nurses
National Center for Policy Research for Women & Families
National Education Association
National Woman's Christian Temperance Union
National Women's Law Center
Oncology Nursing Society
Office of Family and Children's Ministries of Disciples Home Missions of the Disciples

Presbyterian Church (USA), Washington Office
Seventh-day Adventist Church
Society for Public Health Education
United Church of Christ