



July 14, 2004

«FullProperName»

«Street»

«CityStateZip»

VIA FAX: «Fax»

Dear Representative «LastName»:

The undersigned organizations urge you to cosponsor H.R. 4433, introduced by Representatives Tom Davis and Henry Waxman, 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. H.R. 4433 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 H.R. 4433 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