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Reply to**Department of Federal Affairs**

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March 6, 2007

Honorable Henry Waxman
2204 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Tom Davis
2348 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Waxman and Davis:

On behalf of the 60,000 pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists of the American Academy of Pediatrics, I would like to express our support for H.R. 1108, legislation to protect the public health by providing the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with certain authority to regulate tobacco products. This legislation is a good first step at curbing the devastating effects tobacco has on adolescents and young adults.

It is estimated that more than 3 million US adolescents are cigarette smokers and more than 2,000 children under the age of 18 start smoking each day. If current tobacco use patterns persist, an estimated 6.4 million children will die prematurely from a smoking-related disease. Smoking and exposure to second-hand smoke among pregnant women cause low-birth weight babies, preterm delivery, perinatal deaths and sudden infant death syndrome. Other effects may include childhood cancer, childhood leukemia, childhood lymphomas and childhood brain tumors. Well over 30,000 births per year in the United States are affected by one or more of these problems.

H.R. 1108 will lower tobacco use by restricting sales of tobacco products to children, regulating tobacco marketing, prohibiting unsubstantiated health claims about tobacco products, requiring disclosure of harmful ingredients in tobacco products, and mandating larger and more informative health warnings. By giving FDA this new authority to regulate tobacco products, we can lower tobacco use by our adolescents and young adults and reduce the life-threatening risks tobacco poses to our nation's youth.

We look forward to working with you to move this legislation through Congress.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jay E. Berkelhamer in black ink.

Jay E. Berkelhamer, MD, FAAP
President

JEB/mdm