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February 15, 2007

AMA APPLAUDS LEGISLATION TO GIVE FDA AUTHORITY OVER TOBACCO PRODUCTS

**Statement attributable to: Ron Davis, M.D.
AMA President-Elect**

“The American Medical Association strongly supports the regulation of tobacco products by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). We applaud Representatives Henry Waxman (D-CA) and Tom Davis (R-VA) and Senators Ted Kennedy (D-MA) and John Cornyn (R-TX) for their bipartisan leadership in introducing the “Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act” to give the FDA authority to regulate the manufacture, sale, distribution, and marketing of tobacco products. Passage of this legislation will end the cruel irony that cigarettes are the most important preventable cause of death and disease in the United States and one of the least regulated products in our society.

“Every year, 440,000 Americans die from diseases caused by tobacco use, which kills more Americans than heroin, PCP, cocaine, alcohol and every other drug combined. Tobacco is responsible for more than \$75 billion in health care costs and \$92 billion in productivity losses each year.

“Tobacco addiction usually begins in childhood or adolescence. Each day, 2,000 kids become addicted smokers and one-third will die prematurely as a result. Some of the provisions in this legislation would stop illegal sales of tobacco products to children; restrict tobacco marketing, especially to children; ban fruit and candy flavorings in cigarettes; and require more informative health warnings. The AMA urges Congress to protect the public health of Americans by passing legislation to authorize effective FDA regulation of tobacco products.”

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Dr. Davis is the AMA President-Elect and former director of the Office on Smoking and Health at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from 1987 to 1991.

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