



June 14, 2012

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norman Dicks
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Dicks:

As leading organizations dedicated to reducing the lethal toll of tobacco, we are writing to reiterate our strong support for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) oversight over tobacco products. We are pleased that the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies did not weaken or limit FDA's authority over tobacco products during its mark-up process. However, our organizations remain deeply concerned that amendments to reduce funding for or weaken implementation of the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (Tobacco Control Act) may be offered during the Full Committee's consideration of this appropriations bill. Our organizations again request that you support the full authorized funding level for the FDA's Center for Tobacco Products and oppose any effort to weaken the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) authority over tobacco products.

We remain particularly concerned that there may be an attempt to exclude many types of cigars from oversight by the FDA as proposed in H.R. 1639. Despite claims made by the tobacco industry, cigar smoking is not safe. According to the U.S. Surgeon General and the National Cancer Institute, cigar smoking causes cancer of the oral cavity, larynx, esophagus and lung, as well as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and heart disease.

Last year, during consideration of the FY 2012 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies appropriations bill, the House rejected an attempt to reduce funding for the FDA's Center for Tobacco Products. We again urge that you to oppose any similar effort this year.

After more than a decade of careful and thorough consideration, in 2009 Congress approved the Tobacco Control Act with strong, bipartisan support to protect America's children and the nation's health by putting in place common sense standards to regulate the tobacco industry. The law will help reduce the devastating health and economic toll of tobacco use on the nation. This lifesaving law should not be weakened.

The Tobacco Control Act was carefully crafted to protect the health of both current tobacco users and those who do not currently use tobacco products, especially children. Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States, killing more than 400,000 Americans and costing the nation \$96 billion in health care expenses each year. The Tobacco Control Act provided the FDA with the tools necessary to regulate tobacco products using an independent science-based process. We urge you to oppose any attempt to impede in any way the FDA's ability to protect public health. To do otherwise would serve the interests of the tobacco industry to the detriment of the health of the nation.

Sincerely,

Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
Academy of General Dentistry
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Cancer Research
American Association for Respiratory Care
American College of Cardiology
American College of Preventative Medicine
American Dental Association
American Medical Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Thoracic Society
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Cancer Prevention and Treatment Fund
Lung Cancer Alliance
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Physicians Alliance
Oncology Nursing Society
Partnership for Prevention
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions
Society for Public Health Education
Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons
United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society

Cc: Committee on Appropriations