



American Heart
Association
Learn and Live



March 2, 2009

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Chairman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Waxman:

We are writing to strongly endorse the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, which you introduced today. This bipartisan bill would reduce the devastating harm caused by tobacco use by granting the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) long-overdue authority to regulate tobacco products. Members of Congress have an historic opportunity to pass this life-saving legislation. We offer our full support for your efforts to turn this opportunity into a reality.

There is overwhelming support for this legislation by Americans across all political, demographic and geographic lines. Nationally, likely voters support Congress passing a bill to give the FDA authority to regulate tobacco by more than a three to one margin (70 to 23 percent). More than 950 public health, faith and other organizations support this legislation including the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Heart Association, American Lung Association and Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kid as well as many other national, state and local organizations (list can be seen at <http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/reports/fda/organizations.pdf>)

Both the President's Cancer Panel and the Institute of Medicine support Congress giving the FDA the authority to regulate the manufacture and marketing of tobacco products. In its groundbreaking 2007 report entitled *Ending the Tobacco Epidemic: A Blueprint for the Nation*, the Institute of Medicine argued, "...product regulation by the FDA will advance tobacco control efforts in the United States and around the world. The proposed tobacco control legislation embodies the principles that should govern the regulation of tobacco products in the coming years."

As the stalwart champion of this legislation for many years, we do not need to tell you how important it is that this much-needed bipartisan FDA legislation be enacted in this session of Congress. We thank you for your continued leadership and are ready to help you to ensure its passage.

Sincerely,

Daniel E. Smith
President
American Cancer Society Cancer Action
Network

Charles D. Connor
President and Chief Executive Officer
American Lung Association

Nancy Brown
Chief Executive Officer
American Heart Association

Matthew L. Myers
President
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids