

**National Board  
of Directors**

January 3, 2016

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Dear Representative:

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The American Lung Association urges you to oppose the REINS Act. The bill is a dangerous attack on critical public health protections, including for lung health.

**Secretary/Treasurer**

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The REINS Act would delay or stop meaningful oversight of tobacco products. When the Congress acted in a bipartisan fashion in 2009 to give the Food and Drug Administration oversight over tobacco products, it did so to empower FDA to implement commonsense safeguards to protect children from predatory tobacco industry marketing, to set meaningful product standards, and – for the first time – to provide oversight of tobacco products.

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Congress should not create new barriers to saving lives from tobacco, but rather should permit FDA to act to implement the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act with the urgency that Congress recognized is necessary to address the cancer, heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and health care costs caused by tobacco use in America.

The REINS Act would also block critical clean air protections. Air pollution can harm anyone’s health, but children, seniors, and people living with lung and heart disease are especially vulnerable. Air pollution can even kill. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has a track record of cost-effectively saving lives and improving public health under the Clean Air Act. The REINS Act would block or delay critical clean air protections against deadly pollutants, as well as the pollution that causes climate change.

**National President and CEO**

Harold P. Wimmer

In fact, the REINS Act would permanently weaken every federal agency’s ability to implement and enforce the law to protect public health. The current regulatory process is transparent, deliberate, based on independent expertise, and responsive to public input. It currently takes years for federal agencies to propose and finalize rules required by law, even non-controversial rules. By requiring positive votes in Congress to approve of every single major rule, the REINS Act would grind the legally required,

**Advocacy Office:**

1331 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 1425 North  
Washington, DC 20004-1710  
Ph: 202-785-3355 F: 202-452-1805

**Corporate Office:**

55 West Wacker Drive, Suite 1150 | Chicago, IL 60601  
Ph: 312-801-7630 F: 202-452-1805 info@Lung.org

lifesaving work of federal agencies to a halt, resulting in premature deaths and health problems that could have been prevented.

We urge you to oppose this sweeping, damaging attack on lifesaving public health protections.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harold Wimmer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'H'.

Harold P. Wimmer  
National President & CEO  
American Lung Association

