



May 18, 2009

The Honorable Edward Kennedy
Chairman, Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Kennedy:

We are writing to express our strong support for the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act and our appreciation that the HELP Committee will mark up the bill next week. S. 982 will reduce the tragic toll that tobacco has inflicted on the public's health. You have introduced a strong bill that we enthusiastically support in its present form.

Tobacco-caused diseases remain the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, killing more than 400,000 Americans each year and costing our health care system as estimated \$96 billion annually. S. 982 would give the FDA the authority to restrict marketing and sales to youth to prevent the tobacco industry from addicting another generation of young people. The bill would require tobacco companies to disclose the contents of their products, empower the FDA to remove or reduce harmful ingredients, and add larger and stronger health warnings on packages and advertisements.

Our organizations have been advocating for FDA regulation of tobacco products for more than a decade. More than 1,000 organizations support this legislation, including public health, medical and faith groups and their allies at the national, state and local levels (the full list of supporting organizations can be seen at: <http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/reports/fda/organizations.pdf>).

We urge members of the HELP Committee to act expeditiously so that the bill can quickly be brought to the Senate floor. The House passed a very similar bill last month by a vote of 298 to 112, and the Obama Administration has indicated its support. We have never been closer to enactment of this important legislation and look forward to working with you on timely approval of S. 982.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Daniel E. Smith in black ink.

Daniel E. Smith
President
American Cancer Society Cancer Action
Network

Handwritten signature of Charles D. Connor in black ink.

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

Handwritten signature of Nancy Brown in black ink.

Nancy Brown
Chief Executive Officer
American Heart Association

Handwritten signature of Matthew L. Myers in black ink.

Matthew L. Myers
President
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids