



Ross P. Lanzafame, Esq.
Chair
National Board of Directors

July 24, 2012

Kathryn A. Forbes, CPA
Chair-Elect
National Board of Directors

Dear Representative:

Albert A. Rizzo, M.D.
Past-Chair

The American Lung Association is strongly opposed to the series of bills expected to be considered soon by the House of Representatives. The bills, including the "Regulatory Freeze for Jobs Act of 2012" (H.R. 4078), the "Midnight Rule Relief Act of 2012," (H.R. 4607), and the "Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act of 2012" (H.R. 3862), would have devastating consequences for the almost 34 million Americans with lung disease, including asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Our organization urges you to oppose these bills.

John F. Emanuel
Secretary/Treasurer

These bills will jeopardize public health by halting the work of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other federal agencies tasked with safeguarding health and safety.

Marcia D. Williams, Ed.D.
Speaker
Nationwide Assembly

Audrene Lojovich
Speaker-Elect
Nationwide Assembly

The Clean Air Act would be weakened and public health significantly undermined by these misguided bills. For example, HR 4708 blocks all "significant regulatory action" until the unemployment drops below 6 percent, which will, for example, indefinitely prevent the EPA from finalizing new air pollution health standards for soot pollution that are long overdue and currently scheduled for completion by December 14, 2012. National Ambient Air Quality Standards are the cornerstone of the Clean Air Act; the standards tell the public when air pollution levels threaten health, and establish the science-based goals for pollution cleanup required to protect public health. Up to 35,700 premature deaths can be prevented in the United States every year when the nation meets tighter health standards for fine particulate matter—also known as soot—according to a report, *Sick of Soot: How the EPA Can Save Lives by Cleaning Up Fine Particle Pollution*, released in November 2011 by the American Lung Association, Clean Air Task Force and Earthjustice.

Geri Reinardy, M.P.A.
Past-Speaker
Nationwide Assembly

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These bills would also halt efforts by FDA to move forward with commonsense consumer protections protecting our nation from tobacco products. Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States and each day, over 4000 children try their first cigarette. If these bills are allowed to become law, it would leave FDA unable to effectively implement the bipartisan Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Law passed by Congress just 3 years ago. FDA would be stopped from protecting the public, including children, from the tobacco industry.

www.Lung.org

Current law requires federal agencies to carefully consider all relevant information before finalizing a new rule. The process is transparent and open and permits participation and comments from all stakeholders – the public, scientific and public interest and public health organizations as well as industry. Congress should not create new barriers to saving lives. Please oppose these bills.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul G. Billings". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul G. Billings
Vice President
National Policy and Advocacy