



January 9, 2024

The Honorable Patty Murray
 Chair
 Committee on Appropriations
 U.S. Senate
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
 Chairwoman
 Committee on Appropriations
 U.S. House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins
 Vice Chair
 Committee on Appropriations
 U.S. Senate
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
 Ranking Member
 Committee on Appropriations
 U.S. House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Murray, Chairwoman Granger, Vice Chair Collins, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you develop final appropriations bills for FY 2024, we urge you to ensure that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) retains its full authority to oversee tobacco products and that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) receives necessary resources to protect kids from tobacco products and reduce tobacco-related disease.¹

¹ References to tobacco in this letter refer to commercial tobacco and not ceremonial tobacco which is used by some American Indian communities.

Tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of death in the U.S., responsible for 480,000 deaths and \$241 billion in health care costs each year. Preventing youth from starting to use tobacco products and helping adults who use tobacco to quit improves health, saves lives, and reduces the financial burden that tobacco use imposes on families, employers, and governments. But provisions in House appropriations bills would undercut efforts by FDA and CDC to reduce tobacco use.

The House Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies appropriations bill would prevent FDA from issuing rules that would remove menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars from the market and reduce nicotine levels in cigarettes. Together, these rules will prevent millions of young people from using tobacco regularly and save millions of lives over time. When added to cigarettes, menthol reduces the harshness of tobacco smoke, which makes it easier for youth to start smoking, and interacts with nicotine to make menthol cigarettes more addictive and harder to quit. Flavored cigars increase the appeal of cigars and make them easier to smoke, especially for youth. And reducing nicotine levels in cigarettes to non-addictive or minimally addictive levels would help people who smoke to quit and help prevent another generation of youth from experiencing the serious health consequences of smoking. FDA should be allowed to use the oversight authority it was given under the 2009 Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, follow the science, and implement these rules to protect the public's health.

The House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill would also eliminate funding for CDC's Office on Smoking and Health. Under the House bill, CDC would no longer be able to provide funding to states to implement evidence-based programs to prevent youth use of e-cigarettes and other tobacco products. States would no longer receive federal support for state quitlines, which help people who use tobacco to quit. And CDC would not have the resources to continue its highly effective national public awareness campaign, *Tips from Former Smokers*,[®] which helped approximately one million people who smoke to quit, prevented 129,100 smoking-related deaths, and saved an estimated \$7.3 billion in health care costs from 2012 through 2018.

In contrast to the House bills, the Senate's appropriations bills have received bipartisan support and do not include provisions that would restrict FDA's ability to oversee tobacco products or cut current funding levels for CDC's Office on Smoking and Health. As you work to finalize appropriations bills for fiscal year 2024, we urge you to not include provisions that would prevent FDA from moving forward with rules on menthol cigarettes, flavored cigars, and reduced nicotine levels in cigarettes and to ensure that CDC's Office on Smoking and Health at a minimum maintains current funding levels.

Sincerely,

Action on Smoking & Health
African American Tobacco Control Leadership
Council
Allergy & Asthma Network
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Otolaryngology- Head
and Neck Surgery
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Cancer Research

American Association for Dental, Oral, and
Craniofacial Research
American Association for Respiratory Care
American Cancer Society Cancer Action
Network
American College Health Association
American College of Cardiology
American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST)
American College of Physicians

American College of Preventive Medicine, The
American for Nonsmokers Rights
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Medical Women's Association
American Public Health Association
American Society of Hematology
Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO)
Association for the Treatment of Tobacco Use
and Dependence (ATTUD)
Association of Black Cardiologists
Association of Maternal & Child Health
Programs
Association of State and Territorial Health
Officials
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Big Cities Health Coalition
Black Women's Health Imperative
Breathe Southern California
CADCA
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
Cancer Prevention Treatment Fund
Catholic Health Association of the United States
CenterLink: The Community of LGBTQ Centers
Commissioned Officers Association of the
USPHS
Common Sense Media
Community Wellness Alliance
COPD Foundation
Counter Tools
DC Tobacco Free Coalition
Emphysema Foundation of America
Family, Career and Community Leaders of
America, Inc. (FCCLA)
First Focus Campaign for Children
For Future Lungs
GO2 for Lung Cancer
HealthHIV
IntelliQuit
Leadership Council for Healthy Communities

March of Dimes
MomsRising
National Alliance for Hispanic Health
National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health,
The
National Association of County and City Health
Officials
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Association of Pediatric Nurse
Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of Secondary School
Principals
National Association of Social Workers
National Black Nurses Association
National Coalition for LGBTQ Health
National Council of Asian Pacific Islander
Physicians
National Education Association
National Hispanic Medical Association
National LGBT Cancer Network
National Network of Public Health Institutes
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
North American Quitline Consortium
Oncology Nursing Society
Parents Against Vaping e-cigarettes
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Preventing Tobacco Addiction
Foundation/Tobacco 21
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Respiratory Health Association
Save a Girl, Save a World
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and
Interventions
Society for Public Health Education
Society of Thoracic Surgeons, The
Trust for America's Health
University of Wisconsin Center for Tobacco
Research and Intervention