

Tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of death in the United States. Each year, it kills more than 480,000 Americans and is responsible for approximately \$170 billion in health care costs. Nearly

one in three heart disease deaths and cancer deaths and nearly eight in 10 chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) deaths are caused by tobacco use.

We are at a critical juncture in the fight against tobacco use. After making tremendous progress in reducing youth tobacco use over the past several decades, e-cigarettes are threatening to undermine declines in youth smoking and overall youth tobacco use. Youth use of electronic cigarettes has skyrocketed in the United States, reaching what the FDA Commissioner and the U.S. Surgeon General have called “epidemic” levels. The 2018 National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS) showed that, between 2017 and 2018, current e-cigarette use increased by 78 percent among high school students and by 48 percent among middle school students. Driven by this surge in e-cigarette use, 27.1 percent of high school students reported current use of at least one tobacco product in 2018 – the highest rate in 14 years. At the same time, progress in reducing youth cigarette use has stalled. The high school smoking rate went from 7.6 percent in 2017 to 8.1 percent in 2018.

OSH has a vital role to play in addressing this serious public health problem. OSH provides grants to states and territories to support tobacco prevention and cessation programs, runs a highly successful national media campaign called Tips from Former Smokers (Tips), conducts research on tobacco use, and develops best practices for reducing it. Additional resources will allow OSH to address the new threat to public health posed by skyrocketing rates of youth e-cigarette use while continuing to prevent and reduce other forms of tobacco use. With additional resources:

- CDC could effectively respond to the new youth e-cigarette epidemic, including providing more resources to state and local health departments; educating youth, parents, health professionals and others about these products and the harms associated with their use; and identifying evidence-based strategies to protect kids.
- CDC could expand a program that we know works: the Tips media campaign. Between 2012 and 2015, Tips motivated over nine million smokers to make a quit attempt, helped over 500,000 smokers to successfully quit, and saved at least 50,000 people from premature death. Increasing the number of weeks Tips is on the air each year and the frequency with which the ads are run will help even more smokers to quit.
- CDC could strengthen efforts to assist groups disproportionately harmed by tobacco products. Despite the progress made in reducing tobacco use, certain populations and regions of the country continue to suffer substantially higher rates of tobacco use and tobacco-related disease and premature death. Targeted assistance would help address these disparities.

We appreciate your Subcommittee’s longstanding commitment to CDC’s tobacco use prevention and cessation programs. Investing in tobacco prevention and cessation will save lives and reduce the cost of treating tobacco-cause disease. For FY 2020, we urge you to increase funding for CDC’s OSH to \$310

million, which will enable CDC to address the new challenges posed by e-cigarettes while continuing to make progress reducing the death and disease caused by other tobacco products.

Sincerely,

Academy of General Dentistry
Action on Smoking & Health
Allergy & Asthma Network
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology
American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Cancer Research
American Association for Dental Research
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Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Big Cities Health Coalition
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
ClearWay Minnesota
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America
Counter Tools
Eta Sigma Gamma – National Health Education Honorary
Lung Cancer Alliance
March of Dimes
National African American Tobacco Prevention Network
National Association of County & City Health Officials
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of Social Workers
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National Hispanic Medical Association
National Network of Public Health Institutes
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Prevent Cancer Foundation
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Public Health Solutions
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions
Society for Public Health Education
Society for Research on Nicotine & Tobacco
Students Against Destructive Decisions
The Society of State Leaders of Health and Physical Education
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons
Trust for America's Health

CC: United States Senate Committee on Appropriations Members



March 14, 2019

The Honorable John Hoeven
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hoeven and Ranking Member Merkley:

As your Subcommittee moves forward with the FY 2020 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we urge you to approve the authorized level of user fees for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to oversee tobacco products. These user fees will give FDA the resources it needs to protect kids and reduce the serious health and economic harms that tobacco products cause.

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States. More than 480,000 Americans die from tobacco use each year, and more than 16 million Americans are currently living with a tobacco-caused disease. Yet, prior to 2009, tobacco products were virtually unregulated by

the federal government. Congress, on a bipartisan basis, recognized that tobacco products should be overseen by an agency with expertise in assessing health risks and experience promulgating science-based regulation. The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (TCA) gave the Center for Tobacco Products at FDA the authority to oversee the manufacture, marketing, distribution and sale of tobacco products in a manner appropriate for the protection of public health.

The dramatic increase in youth use of e-cigarettes underscores the need for appropriate oversight by FDA. Between 2017 and 2018, use of e-cigarettes soared by 78 percent among high school students and by 48 percent among middle school students. More than 3.6 million middle and high school students are now e-cigarette users – an alarming increase of 1.5 million students in just one year. The Commissioner of the FDA and the Surgeon General have called youth use of e-cigarettes an “epidemic.” This escalation in e-cigarette use is largely attributable to Juul, an e-cigarette with a sleek design that is easily concealable, comes in a variety of flavors, and delivers a high level of nicotine.

Other tobacco products remain a serious public health concern. While youth use of cigarettes has declined since the late 1990s, progress has stalled. The high school smoking rate went from 7.6 percent in 2017 to 8.1 percent in 2018. An estimated 5.6 million children alive today will die prematurely from smoking if current smoking rates persist. More than 34 million adults currently smoke cigarettes; virtually all of them started smoking during their teenage years, or earlier, and most of them want to quit. While cigar smoking is often perceived as an activity of older adults, cigars are popular among youth, particularly high school boys. Cigars are marketed in a wide variety of flavors and are often inexpensive (e.g., 3 cigars for 99 cents), making them particularly appealing to youth.

FDA has the tools to meet these challenges, including the authority to review new tobacco products and set rules for how tobacco products are made and marketed to protect kids and public health. We appreciate that your Subcommittee has recognized the important role FDA has to play and has always approved the authorized amount of user fees for FDA’s oversight of tobacco products. We also appreciate that your Subcommittee has not included any restrictions on FDA’s authority under the TCA in previous appropriations bills. FDA should continue to be permitted to make science-based decisions about which tobacco products to oversee and how to apply its authority.

We urge the Subcommittee to approve the \$712 million in user fees that the TCA authorized FDA to collect and spend for tobacco-related activities for FY 2020. Tobacco products are addictive and harmful. With the support of your Subcommittee, FDA will continue to have the tools necessary to reduce tobacco use and the health and economic toll it takes on our nation.

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March 14, 2019

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As your Subcommittee moves forward with the FY 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we urge you to increase funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Office on Smoking and Health (OSH) by \$100 million, for a total of \$310 million. This increase is needed to respond to soaring e-cigarette usage rates among youth and the devastating toll that tobacco continues to take on our nation's health.

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- CDC could strengthen efforts to assist groups disproportionately harmed by tobacco products. Despite the progress made in reducing tobacco use, certain populations and regions of the country continue to suffer substantially higher rates of tobacco use and tobacco-related disease and premature death. Targeted assistance would help address these disparities.

We appreciate the \$210 million that your Subcommittee approved for CDC’s tobacco use prevention and cessation programs for FY 2019. Investing in tobacco prevention and cessation will save lives and reduce the cost of treating tobacco-caused disease. For FY 2020, we urge you to increase funding for

CDC's OSH to \$310 million, which will enable CDC to address the new challenges posed by e-cigarettes while continuing to make progress reducing the death and disease caused by other tobacco products.

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