



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.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 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*,<sup>®</sup> 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