

FDA Regulation of Tobacco Products
Senate Bill – S. 625 – Kennedy-Cornyn Legislation
House Bill – H.R. 1108 – Waxman-Davis Legislation

FDA Talking Points

- Tobacco-caused disease is the leading preventable cause of death in our country – killing more than 400,000 people each year. More than four decades after the Surgeon General’s report linking cigarettes to cancer, tobacco products are virtually unregulated to protect our health and safety. The Food and Drug Administration can regulate a box of macaroni and cheese, but not a pack of cigarettes. S.625/H.R. 1108 would protect public health and end this strange and unjust double-standard.
- This legislation has the strong support of the public health community. The American College of Chest Physicians has made passage of S.625/H.R. 1108 one of our top priorities for the 110th Congress.
- Government regulation of the tobacco industry by the FDA has been an issue that our organization has supported since the 1950’s, and it is our view that the FDA is the only agency with the combination of scientific expertise and regulatory authority to carry out this mission.
- Among other things, this legislation would let the FDA
 - Restrict tobacco marketing and sales to kids;
 - Require changes in tobacco products to make them less toxic and less addictive;
 - Stop tobacco companies from misleading the public about the health consequences of using their products;
 - Enable the FDA to regulate advertising of tobacco products, and
 - End the double standard for tobacco products.

These are common-sense consumer protections that should have become law a long time ago.

- It is time to end the special protection for tobacco companies and level the playing field between tobacco and other products -- just like the authority FDA has over drugs, medical devices, and other products we consume.
- There is broad bipartisan consensus that this product must be regulated. The legislation already has more than 220 co-sponsors in the House with 55 in the Senate, reflecting strong support from both parties and from all regions of the country.
- The House Energy & Commerce Committee passed H.R. 1108 out of the full Committee on April 2, 2008 to be considered for a vote on the House Floor.

The ASK:

We need Congressional leadership on this critical issue. We urge all Members of Congress to support S. 625 /H.R. 1108. This legislation will give FDA authority to regulate tobacco products.