



January 23, 1998

The Honorable William Clinton
The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing on behalf of ENACT (Effective National Action To Control Tobacco), a public health coalition, to encourage you to include a statement supporting comprehensive tobacco legislation in your "State of the Union" address on January 27th.

We commend your personal leadership and endorse the Administration's efforts to protect our nation's youth from the serious health risks associated with the use of tobacco products. We thank you for your past efforts as a champion of the FDA Rule restricting youth access to tobacco and for your more recent efforts supporting the need for tough, comprehensive legislation.

Mr. President, as you have previously mentioned, the time for action on this critical issue is now. The recent disclosure of evidence showing how one tobacco company courted teen-age smokers makes the need for immediate action clear. The American public agrees. A recent national poll shows that 88% of the American public is concerned about tobacco use by kids and 70% believe it is important that Congress address the issue now.

This is a complex problem that requires real solutions. There is no one silver bullet. For that reason, we encourage you to advocate for the passage of comprehensive and effective tobacco control legislation incorporating all the elements listed in the attached ENACT consensus statement. Only a comprehensive, well funded and sustainable program will reduce the leading cause of preventable disease and death in this country.

We recognize the difficult decisions you must face in determining which issues to address in the State of the Union, but never in history has the Nation's attention been so focused on tobacco control. You can make a difference, and the time is now.

Sincerely,

Allergy & Asthma Network - Mothers of Asthmatics, Inc.
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Respiratory Care

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American Association For
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American Association of
Physicians of Indian Origin
American Cancer Society
American College of Cardiology
American College of Chest
Physicians
American College of
Occupational & Environmental
Medicine
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive
Medicine
American Heart Association
American Medical Association
American Psychological
Association
American Society of
Anesthesiologists
American Society of Clinical
Oncology
American Society of Internal
Medicine
Association of American
Medical Colleges
Association of Maternal and
Child Health Programs
Association of Schools of
Public Health
Association of State &
Territorial Health Officials
Campaign For Tobacco-Free
Kids
Children's Defense Fund
College on Problems of Drug
Dependence
Council of State & Territorial
Epidemiologists
Family Voices
The HMO Group
Interreligious Coalition on
Smoking OR Health
Latino Council on Alcohol and
Tobacco
National Association of County
& City Health Officials
National Association of Local
Boards of Health
The Oncology Nursing Society
Partnership For Prevention
Society for Public Health
Education
The Society for Research on
Nicotine and Tobacco
The Society of Behavioral
Medicine

American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin
American Cancer Society
American College of Cardiology
American College of Chest Physicians
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Heart Association
American Medical Association
American Psychological Association
American Society of Anesthesiologists
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society of Internal Medicine
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
Association of Schools of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
College on Problems of Drug Dependence
Interreligious Coalition on Smoking Or Health
Latino Council on Alcohol & Tobacco
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Local Boards of Health
National Hispanic Medical Association
Oncology Nursing Society
Partnership for Prevention
Society for Public Health Education
Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco
Society of Behavioral Medicine