



October 8, 1998

President William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you are aware, there is an effort in Congress to waive the federal government's claim to any of the funds received as a result of the state's Medicaid cases against the tobacco industry without requiring a single penny to be spent on programs to reduce tobacco use or the death toll from tobacco. It has been widely reported that the states are on the verge of reaching a settlement that will be worth over \$200 billion over the next 25 years. More than 50 percent of Medicaid funds are paid by the federal government.

It was reported this morning that you are not likely to veto this provision. It has also been reported that the administration has not demanded that any such provision require that a portion of the money be used for tobacco control programs.

For the last four years, you have been a constant and forceful voice for the need for strong action to reduce tobacco use, particularly among children. In light of your commitment to reduce tobacco use, and of the pediatric epidemic of tobacco addiction in America, we would be outraged if the administration allowed this amendment to be enacted into law without requiring any money to be spent to protect our nation's children from tobacco.

We urge you to insist that any waiver of the federal government's share of these Medicaid funds include a specific provision requiring a substantial percentage of these monies to be used to reduce tobacco use. We also urge you to veto any proposal which does not do so. Thank you.

Sincerely,

The ENACT Coalition



ENACT Coalition Members

- Alliance of Community Health Plans
- American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
- American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Association for Respiratory Care
- 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 Preventive Medicine
- American Dental Association
- American Heart Association
- American Psychiatric Association
- American Psychological Association
- American School Health Association
- American Society of Anesthesiologists
- American Society of Clinical Oncology
- American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine
- Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc.
- Association of Schools of Public Health
- Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine
- Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
- College on Problems of Drug Dependence
- Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)
- Council of State & Territorial Epidemiologists
- Family Voices
- Federation of Behavioral, Psychological and Cognitive Sciences
- Hadassah
- 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
- National Mental Health Association
- Oncology Nursing Society
- Partnership for Prevention
- Society for Public Health Education
- Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco
- Society of Behavioral Medicine
- Society of Critical Care Medicine
- Summit Health Coalition

A number of the nation's major public health organizations have formed ENACT (Effective National Action to Control Tobacco). This growing coalition has pledged to work with the Congress, the Administration, the public health community and the American people to pass comprehensive, sustainable, effective, well-funded national tobacco control legislation.