



March 27, 1998

The Honorable Robert G. Torricelli  
United States Senate  
113 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-3003

Dear Senator:

The ENACT coalition of more than 45 major public health organizations with millions of volunteers and members supports comprehensive legislation that will prevent children from taking up tobacco and dramatically reduce tobacco use among adults.

We are writing to express our serious concerns regarding the restrictions contained in the Budget Resolution that limit the use of money in the Tobacco Reserve Fund to the Medicare Hospital Trust Fund. These restrictions will hinder efforts to enact effective and comprehensive tobacco legislation by requiring 60 votes to include funding for key anti-tobacco programs. We believe that the Budget Resolution should be changed to allow the Tobacco Reserve Fund to be used for programs that will reduce the use of tobacco and its harmful effects.

To reduce tobacco use among children and adults, comprehensive tobacco legislation must contain funding for tobacco-related public health programs, including:

1. A nationwide public education and counter advertising program as well as state and local tobacco control programs and projects.
2. Cessation programs to help children and adults who want to quit.
3. Regulation of tobacco products by the Food and Drug Administration.
4. Research into how we can best prevent tobacco use and help those who want to quit - this research will build on what we already know and ensure that our efforts to drive down smoking rates are effective.

Funding for tobacco-related public health programs should be the first priority for any funds raised through tobacco legislation; we are therefore opposed to the current provision in the Budget Resolution that limits the use of such revenue to the Medicare Hospital Trust Fund.

We recognize that the Budget Resolution includes funding for teen smoking prevention and cessation programs, but these programs would have to compete for limited discretionary dollars available in the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill. Additionally, the funding called for in the Budget Resolution under the discretionary caps is far below the funding levels

recommended by virtually every major public health organization and below what was outlined in the proposed Attorneys General agreement.

The undersigned groups support amending the Budget Resolution to ensure that funds in the Tobacco Reserve Fund can be used to support critical tobacco-related programs that will help drive down smoking rates. This is an historic opportunity to achieve fundamental change in tobacco addiction and disease and to save lives. We are committed to working with you and other members of Congress to pass a Budget Resolution that will help protect America's children from the dangers of tobacco addiction.

Sincerely,

Allergy & Asthma Network - Mothers of Asthmatics, Inc.  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association for Respiratory Care  
American Cancer Society  
American College of Chest Physicians  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Heart Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American School Health Association  
American Society of Internal Medicine  
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids  
College on Problems of Drug Dependence  
Family Voices  
Federation of Behavioral, Psychological and Cognitive Sciences  
The HMO Group  
Interreligious Coalition on Smoking or Health  
Latino Council on Alcohol & Tobacco  
National Association of Children's Hospitals  
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  
Summit Health Coalition