



June 30, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
 Chair  
 Committee on Appropriations  
 United States House of Representatives  
 Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
 Ranking Member  
 Committee on Appropriations  
 United States House of Representatives  
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

As your committee proceeds to mark up the Fiscal Year 2022 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we urge you to oppose any efforts to weaken FDA's authority over cigars or any other tobacco products.

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States. More than 480,000 Americans die from tobacco use each year, and more than 16 million Americans are currently living with a tobacco-caused disease. With the enactment of the Family Smoking

Prevention and Tobacco Control Act in 2009, Congress recognized that all tobacco products should be overseen by an agency with expertise in assessing health risks and experience promulgating science-based regulation.

Over the years, manufacturers and sellers of tobacco products have sought to exclude certain products from FDA's authority or weaken FDA oversight of them, including through the appropriations process. Fortunately, Congress has not restricted FDA's statutory authority. All tobacco products pose risks to health and should adhere to science-based public health protections.

Manufacturers and sellers of certain types of cigars, for example, have argued that their products should not be overseen by FDA despite the agency's determination that there is no appropriate public health justification for exempting them. While cigar smoking is often perceived as an activity of older adults, cigars are popular among youth, particularly high school boys. Cigars are marketed in a wide array of flavors and are often inexpensive, making them especially appealing to youth. Despite industry claims to the contrary, cigar use has serious negative health risks and can lead to lung and heart diseases and numerous types of cancer. FDA has determined that all cigars are potentially addictive, and that cigar use leads to approximately 9,000 premature deaths each year.

We are grateful that Congress has rejected efforts in the past to weaken FDA's authority over tobacco products, and we urge you to once again reject any such efforts during consideration of the FY 2022 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

Academy of General Dentistry  
Action on Smoking & Health  
African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council  
Allergy & Asthma Network  
American Academy of Dental Group Practice  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology  
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology  
American Academy of Oral Medicine  
American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association for Cancer Research  
American Association for Respiratory Care  
American Association of Dental Research  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Physicians  
American Dental Association  
American Heart Association

American Lung Association  
American Medical Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Society of Addiction Medicine  
American Thoracic Society  
Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights  
Association for Clinical Oncology  
Association for Treatment of Tobacco Use and Dependence (ATTUD)  
Association of Black Cardiologists  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Big Cities Health Coalition  
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids  
Catholic Health Association of the United States  
Center for Black Equity  
ClearyWay Minnesota  
Commissioned Officers Association of the USPHS  
Community Anti- Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)  
COPD Foundation  
Counter Tools  
Eta Sigma Gamma – National Health Education Honorary  
GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer  
LULAC  
LUNGevity Foundation  
March of Dimes  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of School Nurses  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Center for Health Research  
National LGBT Cancer Network  
National Medical Association  
National Network of Public Health Institutes  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Parents Against Vaping e-cigarettes (PAVe)  
PHS Commissioned Officers Foundation  
Prevent Cancer Foundation  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI)  
Society for Public Health Education  
Society for Research on Nicotine & Tobacco (SRNT)  
Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)  
The Society of State Leaders of Health and Physical Education  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons  
Trust for America's Health

CC: United States House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations Members