



American
Public Health
Association

800 I Street, N.W. • Washington, DC 20001-3710
Phone: (202) 777-APHA • Fax: (202) 777-2534
www.apha.org • comments@apha.org

Protect, Prevent, Live Well

June 3, 2009

U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the American Public Health Association (APHA), the oldest and most diverse organization of public health professionals and advocates in the world dedicated to promoting and protecting the health of the public and our communities, I write to thank you for your support of S. 982, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act and urge you to forgo offering any unrelated amendments to the bill and to oppose any efforts to otherwise weaken or threaten passage of the bill.

Since 1994, APHA has urged Congress to affirm FDA's authority to regulate tobacco products. With Congress close to completing its action on this legislation, we are concerned that these efforts may be derailed if extraneous amendments are offered and attached to the bill. APHA strongly opposes any amendments that are nongermane or would weaken or otherwise threaten passage of this critical public health legislation.

For decades, the tobacco companies have marketed their deadly products to our children, deceived consumers about the harm their products cause, and failed to take any meaningful action to make their products less harmful or less addictive. S. 982/H.R. 1256 would finally end the special protection enjoyed by the tobacco industry and protect our children and the nation's health instead.

Thank you again for your support for this legislation. We urge the Senate to move quickly to pass the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Georges C. Benjamin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Georges C. Benjamin, MD, FACP, FACEP (E)
Executive Director