

# Faith United Against Tobacco



July 11, 2007

## SAMPLE OF LETTER SENT TO ENTIRE TENNESSEE DELEGATION

Dear XXX:

We are writing to you on behalf of faith leaders in Tennessee to strongly urge you to cosponsor S. 625/H.R. 1108, The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act. The purpose of this legislation is to grant the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authority to regulate tobacco products. Representatives Henry Waxman (D-CA) and Tom Davis (R-VA) have introduced this legislation; more than 180 Representatives have joined the growing list of cosponsors, while in the Senate, Senators Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and John Cornyn (R-TX) have gathered 49 of their colleagues to cosponsor the bill.

Tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, killing over 400,000 Americans every year, yet tobacco products are not regulated by the federal government. We believe that it is time for Congress to address this moral issue and enact strong legislation supported by the public health community to give the FDA the authority to regulate tobacco products.

Until Congress grants the FDA this authority, the tobacco companies will continue to market their deadly products to children. Moreover, the evidence keeps mounting about the tobacco industry's misdeeds and the harm caused by this unregulated product. On August 17, 2006, U.S. District Judge Gladys Kessler found the major tobacco companies to be racketeers who have lied – and continue to lie – to the American people about the health risks of their products and their marketing to children. On the heels of this court decision, a report by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health found that tobacco companies secretly and significantly increased the levels of nicotine in cigarette smoke between 1998 and 2004. The National Academies' Institute of Medicine issued a report on May 24, 2007, endorsing the approach of S.625/H.R. 1108 and saying that only by allowing federal regulation of tobacco products and strict limitations on tobacco marketing can the U.S. have a major impact on reducing the toll of tobacco.

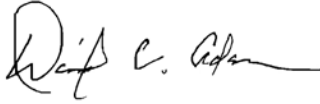
The faith community spends too much time burying mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers who die because they became addicted to tobacco products when they were young. Unless we grant the FDA the authority to regulate tobacco products, the tobacco companies will continue to mislead consumers and discourage smokers from quitting by making unproven claims that some tobacco products are safer than others. And they will continue to hide the truth about the dangers of their products and fail to take even the most minimal steps to reduce the number of Americans who die from tobacco use.

Our commitment goes beyond signing our names to this letter. We are asking our congregations to support this effort and to communicate the importance of this legislation to their elected officials.

It is our sincere hope that you will cosponsor S.625/H.R. 1108. If you have any questions or

would like to reply to this request, please contact Vincent DeMarco, National Coordinator for Faith United Against Tobacco, at 410-591-9162 or [demarco@mdinitiative.org](mailto:demarco@mdinitiative.org)

Sincerely,



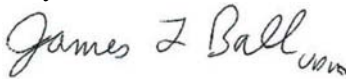
Rev. Dave Adams, General Secretary  
United Methodist Men  
Nashville



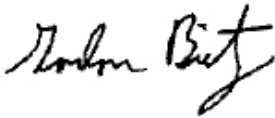
Jane Allen, President  
Health Ministries Association,  
Middle Tennessee Chapter



Rev. Gary A. Anderson  
Southern Baptist  
Waynesboro



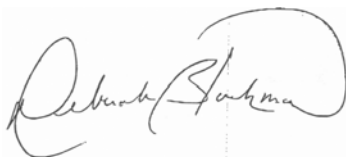
James L. Ball, President  
United Methodist Men,  
Holston Conference (includes Eastern Tennessee)



Rev. Gordon Bietz, President  
Southern Adventist University  
Collegedale



Connie Blake, Parish Nurse Coordinator  
Memorial Health Care System  
Chattanooga



Sister Deborah Blockmon

House of God Church  
Nashville



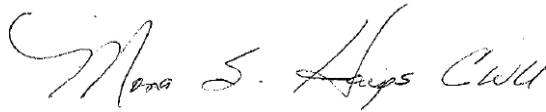
Dale Charlton, MSN, RN  
Assistant Professor of Nursing  
Baptist College of Health Sciences  
Memphis



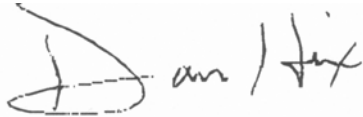
P. Jay Clark  
Manager-Faith Formation & Leadership Development with Youth Division  
on Ministry with Young People GBOD The United Methodist Church  
Nashville



Rabbi Shana R. Goldstein  
The Temple, Congregation Ohabai Shalom  
Nashville



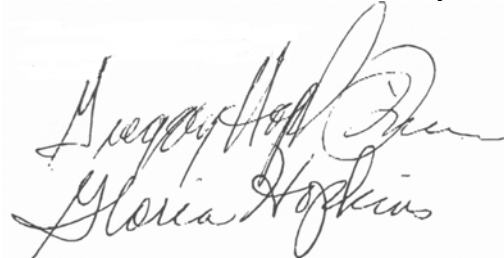
Mona Hayes, President  
Church Women United of Tennessee



Rev. Dan Hix  
Southern Baptist



Mary Sue Hodges  
Nurse Practitioner, Faith Community Nurse

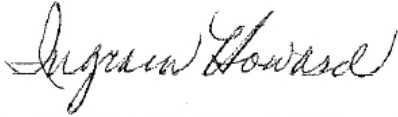


Pastors Gregory & Gloria Hopkins

Anointed Life Fellowship Church



Rev. Roger A. Hopson,  
Executive Assistant to the Bishop, Nashville Episcopal Office  
United Methodist Church



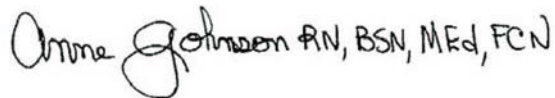
Ingram Howard, President  
United Methodist Men, Tennessee Conference



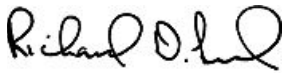
Pastor Robert Howse  
Greater Zion Primitive Baptist Church



Deborah Hyder, RN  
Parish Nurse  
Bethel Presbyterian Church  
Kingston



Anne Johnson, RN, BSN, MEd, FCN  
Parish Health Ministry Coordinator  
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church  
Signal Mountain




Dr. Richard D. Land, President, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission  
Southern Baptist Convention

**Richard Pilbeam**

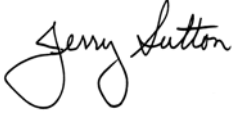
Richard Pilbeam, President  
United Methodist Men, Memphis Conference



Rabbi Philip Rice  
Congregation Micah



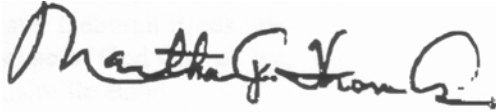
Dorlisa Smikes  
Ray of Hope Community Church of Nashville



Dr. Jerry Sutton  
Senior Pastor  
Two Rivers Baptist Church



Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr.,  
Holston Conference (includes Eastern Tennessee),  
United Methodist Church



Bishop Martha Thomas  
The House of God Church Inc., Keith Dominion  
State Bishop, Tennessee Diocese