

Faith United Against Tobacco



February 27, 2005

The Honorable George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to you as national leaders of America's faith community on behalf of our clergy and lay members to strongly urge you send the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), the international tobacco control treaty, to the United States Senate to be immediately considered for ratification.

U.S. ratification of the treaty is critical to ensuring that the U.S. remains a leader in protecting public health around the world. As home to Philip Morris, the world's largest multinational tobacco company, the U.S. has a special obligation to provide global leadership in reducing the alarming rates of death and disease caused by tobacco use. The U.S. has historically been a leader in protecting public health around the world and can play that role again by ratifying the tobacco treaty and supporting its effective implementation domestically and internationally.

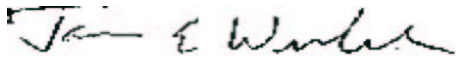
We in the faith community believe we have a moral obligation to do all that we can in order to save countless lives from the horrors of tobacco caused death and illness. Our clergy spends much too much time burying mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers who die an untimely and grueling death because they became addicted to tobacco when they were young. We know all too well how the tobacco companies have spent, and continue to spend, hundreds of millions of dollars to addict young and old to this deadly product.

The treaty gives nations powerful new tools to protect the health of their citizens from the tobacco industry's deceptions and slick marketing. It requires ratifying nations to adopt two policies proven to reduce smoking and save lives: a comprehensive ban on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship, with an exception for nations with constitutional constraints (such as the U.S.), and large health warning labels that cover at least 30 percent of cigarette packs. The treaty also provides nations with a roadmap for enacting strong, science-based policies in other areas, including secondhand smoke protections, tobacco taxation, tobacco product regulation and measures to combat cigarette smuggling.

Tobacco use already kills nearly five million people a year around the world, and that number is projected to increase to 10 million a year by the year 2020 with 70 percent of

those deaths in developing countries. This is a horrible tragedy that the treaty can help to reduce if it is widely adopted and effectively implemented by countries. We urge our government to join the over 50 countries that have ratified the tobacco treaty. By ratifying this treaty, the United States can continue to be a leader in improving health and saving lives around the world.

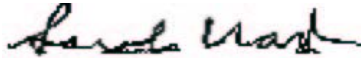
Sincerely,



James Winkler, General Secretary
General Board of Church and Society
United Methodist Church



Dr. DeWitt Williams, Director
Health Ministries, North American Division
Seventh Day Adventists



Sarah Ward, President
Woman's Christian Temperance Union



Julie Taylor, Executive Secretary for Children, Youth and Family Advocacy,
Women's Division, GBGM, United Methodist Church



Dr. Sayyid M. Syeed
Secretary General
Islamic Society of North America



Rev. Deborah L. Patterson, Executive Director
International Parish Nurse Resource Center



Rev. Kristina Peterson, Global Action Chair
Church Women United



Phillip Jones, Director
Brethren Witness/Washington Office,
Church of the Brethren



Rev. Elenora Giddings Ivory, Director
Presbyterian Church (USA) Washington Office



Rev. Michael H. Crosby, OFM Cap., Coordinator
Tobacco Program
Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility



Roy Branson, Co-Chair
Inter-Religious Coalition on Smoking or Health



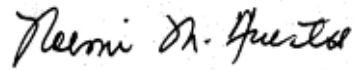
Barbara Baylor, M.P.H.
Minister for Health and Wellness
United Church of Christ



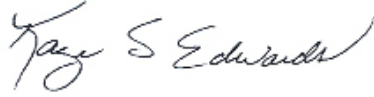
Sharon Adkins, President
Health Ministries Association



Rev. A. Roy Medley, General Secretary
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Noemi M. Fuentes, Program Associate
Program on Substance Abuse and
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Kaye Edwards, Disciples Home Missions
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Karen Vagley, Director, Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs
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