

February 24, 2005

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to urge you to send the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), the international tobacco control treaty, to the United States Senate to be considered immediately for ratification.

We have been encouraged by statements from your Administration -- including from Former Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson -- that the United States supports the treaty and wishes to ratify it as soon as possible.

On February 27 the FCTC will become international law. More than 55 countries from around the globe have already ratified it. U.S. ratification of the treaty is critical to ensuring that the U.S. remains a leader in protecting public health around the world. U.S. participation and effective implementation of the treaty are essential to turning the tide of the global tobacco epidemic.

Tobacco use already kills nearly five million people worldwide every year. If current trends continue, it will kill 10 million a year within two decades, with 70 percent of those deaths in developing nations. These nations have been the primary targets of the tobacco companies as smoking rates have slowly declined in more developed nations.

The U.S. must provide leadership by promptly ratifying and implementing the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and by providing essential financial and technical assistance so that other nations can effectively implement it. We urge you to send the treaty to the Senate for immediate ratification and implementation.

Please contact any of our organizations if we can be of assistance. We look forward to working with your Administration and the leadership in the Senate to ensure that the United States becomes a party to this historic treaty as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Action on Smoking or Health
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Respiratory Care
American Cancer Society
American College of Cardiology
American College of Chest Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Association
American Dental Hygienists' Association
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Medical Association

American Medical Student Association
American Public Health Association
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society of Addiction Medicine
American Thoracic Society
Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights
Asian Services In Action, Inc.
Association for Nonsmokers-MN
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
Black Network In Children's Emotional Health
California Tobacco Control Alliance
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
Center for Communications, Health and the Environment
Center for International Environmental Law
Center for Tobacco Cessation
Coalition for a Tobacco Free Hawaii
COMMIT for a Tobacco Free Whatcom County
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America
CorpWatch
Corporate Accountability International
Council for Responsible Public Investment
Development Group for Alternative Policies
Essential Action
Foreign Policy In Focus
General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church
Global Citizen Center
Global Exchange
Intercultural Cancer Council Caucus
Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
National Association of Local Boards of Health
National Latino Council on Alcohol & Tobacco Prevention
National Research Center for Women & Families
Ohlone College Student Health Center
Oncology Nursing Society
REAL: Hawaii Youth Movement Against the Tobacco Industry
Roswell Park Cancer Institute
San Francisco African American Tobacco Free Project
San Francisco Tobacco Free Coalition
Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco
Society for Public Health Education
Solano County Tobacco Education Coalition
SPEAK EZ'n SLO
Swan Valley Community Support Network
Students Taking a New Direction
Strategic Vision Group
Tobacco Control Law & Policy Consulting
Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition, Inc.
University of Hawai'i Community Partnership for Health and Fresh Air