



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