

American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

Press Statement on SENATE PASSAGE OF THE FAMILY SMOKING PREVENTION AND TOBACCO CONTROL ACT (S. 982)

By David T. Tayloe Jr., MD, FAAP, president, American Academy of Pediatrics

"The American Academy of Pediatrics applauds the U.S. Senate for its passage of the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act in a 79 to 17 vote today. Today's action by the Senate is the culmination of more than a decade of effort by House and Senate leaders, pediatricians and public health advocates. In particular, we commend Representative Henry Waxman and Senator Edward Kennedy for their vigilance and leadership to protect children from the harms of smoking.

"The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act will give the Food and Drug Administration the power to restrict tobacco marketing and sales to children and adolescents, ban candy-flavored tobacco products that attract youth smokers, and publicize the negative health effects of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco. These critical steps are needed to make smoking and tobacco products less appealing and less available to our most vulnerable citizens.

"Smoking is a pediatric disease. Almost all adult smokers start smoking during or prior to their teen years. Every day, 1,000 children become regular smokers and, sadly, one-third of these children will die early from tobacco-related disease. Another 3 million American youth already are habitual smokers.

"The Academy believes that the strongest possible tobacco regulations are necessary to protect our children and adolescents. We urge the House and Senate to quickly work out the differences between their two bills so that President Obama can sign this critical legislation into law."

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The American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of 60,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety and well being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults.