



# News Release

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## **MAKE CONGRESSIONAL PASSAGE OF TOBACCO CONTROL LEGISLATION A TOP PRIORITY**

Statement by American Academy of Pediatrics President Renée R. Jenkins, MD, FAAP, on House Energy and Commerce Committee approval of H.R. 1108

“The American Academy of Pediatrics, representing more than 60,000 pediatricians, commends the House Energy and Commerce Committee for approving sweeping tobacco control legislation.

“Today’s vote paves the way for this Congress to do something truly ground-breaking to protect the health and save the lives of millions of children and adolescents. The Academy urges the full House—and Senate, which has a similar bill pending—to quickly pass H.R. 1108, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control bill. There is no time to waste.

“Consider this: While the committee debated the legislation today, 4,000 children and adolescents tried their first cigarette—and, for too many, it will become the beginning of a lifetime of addiction and health problems. Another 3 million American youth already are habitual smokers.

“The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control bill would give the Food and Drug Administration the power to restrict tobacco marketing and sales to children and adolescents, ban candy-flavored cigarettes and publicize the negative health effects of cigarettes and chewing tobacco. These critical steps are needed to make smoking and tobacco products less appealing and less available to our most vulnerable citizens.

“With this legislation, Congress has a chance to give the next generation an amazing gift: The power to say no and the right to live healthy lives free from tobacco addiction and exposure to second-hand smoke. The Academy is committed to working with Congress to enact the strongest possible tobacco regulations to protect our children and adolescents.”

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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. The AAP Julius B. Richmond Center, a national center of excellence funded by the Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute and the American Legacy Foundation, is dedicated to the elimination of children’s exposure to tobacco. For more information about the Richmond Center, go to: <http://www.aap.org/richmondcenter/>*