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**AAP APPLAUDS PRESIDENT OBAMA'S SIGNING OF FAMILY SMOKING
PREVENTION AND TOBACCO CONTROL ACT AS
PEDIATRICIAN ATTENDS ROSE GARDEN CEREMONY**

Washington, DC— The American Academy of Pediatrics, which represents 60,000 pediatricians, applauds President Barack Obama for signing into law today The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act. Today's action by the President is the culmination of more than a decade of effort by House and Senate leaders, pediatricians and public health advocates.

"I was pleased to represent the thousands of pediatricians who advocated for this bill at the Rose Garden of the White House today. The bill signing ceremony is a historic and proud day for all child health advocates. Smoking is a killer and too many of our young people are its victim. Almost all adult smokers start smoking during or prior to their teen years. This law will greatly reduce tobacco use by adolescent and young," said Dr. Renee Jenkins, FAAP, Immediate Past President, American Academy of Pediatrics.

On Thursday, June 11, the U.S. Senate passed the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (HR 1256) by an overwhelming, bipartisan vote of 79-17. The House of Representatives approved the Senate's version of the bill on June 12, by a vote of 307-97. Today, surrounded by supporters and those impacted by the dangers of tobacco, President Obama signed the bill into law.

The bill grants the FDA powerful authority to regulate tobacco products by:

- Restricting tobacco advertising and promotions, especially to children.
- Preventing illegal sales of tobacco products to children.
- Banning candy-flavored cigarettes, which clearly are starter products for young, new smokers.
- Requiring changes in tobacco products, such as the removal of harmful ingredients or the reduction of nicotine levels.
- Prohibiting health claims about so-called "reduced risk" products that are not scientifically proven or that would discourage current tobacco users from quitting or encourage new users to start.
- Requiring tobacco companies to disclose the contents of tobacco products, changes to their products and research about the health effects of their products.
- Requiring larger and more informative health warnings on tobacco products.
- Prohibiting terms such as "light", "mild" and "low-tar" that mislead consumers into believing that certain cigarettes are safer than others.

It is estimated that more than 3 million US adolescents are cigarette smokers and more than 2,000 children under the age of 18 start smoking each day. If the present tobacco use patterns persist, an expected 6.4 million children will die prematurely from a smoking related illness.

In collaboration with public health partners, the AAP Julius B. Richmond Center helped advocate for this legislation. The Richmond Center is dedicated to eliminating children's exposure to tobacco and secondhand smoke. The AAP is committing to providing continued support for this legislation – for more information about the AAP's anti – tobacco efforts visit www.aap.org/richmondcenter.

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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.