

# American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

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## **Press Statement**

**on**

### **HOUSE PASSAGE OF THE FAMILY SMOKING PREVENTION AND TOBACCO CONTROL ACT (H.R. 1256)**

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

“The American Academy of Pediatrics applauds the U.S. House of Representatives for its passage of H.R. 1256, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act in a 298-112 vote today.

“Today’s vote paves the way for Congress to do something truly ground-breaking to protect the health and save the lives of millions of children and adolescents.

“Consider this: 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 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 chewing tobacco. These critical steps are needed to make smoking and tobacco products less appealing and less available to our most vulnerable citizens.

“The Academy is committed to working with Congress to enact the strongest possible tobacco regulations to protect our children and adolescents. We urge the Senate to act swiftly to pass the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act. 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.”

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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.*