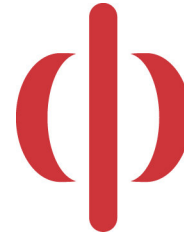


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**RESPIRATORY  
HEALTH  
ASSOCIATION<sup>SM</sup>**  
*of Metropolitan Chicago*

June 23, 2009

### **RHAMC Applauds Passage of FDA Regulation of Tobacco**

The U. S. Senate has passed the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act. This historic legislation will give the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authority to regulate tobacco products.

While tobacco has earned the distinction of being the deadliest consumer product on the shelves of our stores, it is one of the least regulated products in America. "By granting FDA authority to take an aggressive stand against this deadly industry, we can save millions of lives and greatly reduce the toll of tobacco," said Joel Africk, President and CEO of the Respiratory Health Association.

The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act will mandate larger health warnings on packages, require detailed ingredient disclosure and require tobacco companies to fund the FDA activity. This act also empowers the FDA to require changes in tobacco products, such as the removal or reduction of harmful ingredients.

This new law includes specific restrictions on youth access to tobacco and marketing including limits on advertising near school and prohibiting certain sponsorships and giveaways. The FDA may also ban candied or flavored tobacco products that are clearly geared towards youth.

While it is commonly known that smoking causes lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and heart disease the U.S. Surgeon General has found that smoking causes diseases in nearly every organ of the body. The economic burden of tobacco is staggering with an estimated cost of \$4 billion in tobacco-related health care costs in Illinois alone.

"Tobacco use leads to a staggering number of deadly diseases and medical complications," said Joel Africk. "This law will save millions from the health burden of tobacco use and we owe a debt of gratitude to Illinois Senator Durbin for his principled leadership on this legislation."

Respiratory Health Association brought dozens of advocates, patients and volunteers to Washington D.C. to advocate on behalf of FDA regulation of tobacco.

This proposal advanced through the U. S. Senate and House of Representatives and now goes to the President for his signature. President Obama has indicated he will sign the historic measure into law

*Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago (RHAMC) has been a local public health leader since 1906. Today the Association fights lung disease and promotes healthy lungs by supporting research, advocacy, and educational efforts on behalf of individuals and families affected by lung cancer, asthma, COPD (chronic bronchitis and emphysema), and other lung diseases. For more information, visit [www.lungchicago.org](http://www.lungchicago.org).*

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