



June 25, 2019

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor
and Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor
and Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

Our organizations write to you to thank you for your efforts to work with Senators McConnell and Kaine as well as our organizations to further strengthen the Tobacco-Free Youth Act. While many of us may send other correspondence regarding the Lower Health Care Costs Act of 2019, we are pleased to convey our collective support for Sections 414 and 415 of this legislation.

These two sections would increase the federal age of sale to 21 for all tobacco products and amend the Synar provisions without requiring states to pass laws that could jeopardize state and local public health protections against tobacco use or put state substance abuse funding at risk. Our organizations greatly appreciate this compromise, as well as the addition of a grant program that will help states transition to the new federal minimum age of sale.

Our organizations hoped for a mandatory federal 21 implementation date. We appreciate the additional reporting to Congress that will be required if FDA fails to meet the deadlines outlined in the statute. We ask you to exercise your oversight authority to ensure FDA acts swiftly to implement this new minimum federal age of sale.

We recognize this as one, among several, important federal policy changes needed to address the public health crisis of tobacco use in the United States, including prohibiting the manufacture and sale of all flavored tobacco products; restricting online sale of all tobacco products, particularly to underage purchasers; and increasing funding of the prevention and cessation activities of the CDC Office on Smoking and Health.

Thank you again for your leadership. We look forward to working with you as well as Senators McConnell, Kaine, Schatz and Young to pass a strong bill establishing a federal age of 21 for the sale of all tobacco products that results in a reduction of youth use of tobacco and improves our nation's public health.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Cancer Research
American College of Cardiology
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America
Trust for America's Health

cc: The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Tim Kaine
The Honorable Brian Schatz
The Honorable Todd Young