

# American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



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## Reply to

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September 14, 2011

The Honorable Ron Kirk  
United States Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Kirk:

On behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), a professional 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, I write to ask that you exclude tobacco products from all provisions of the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) and all other free trade agreements.

Tobacco use is a major cause of death and illness across the globe, causing more than 438,000 deaths in the United States alone each year. Usage most often begins in youth, resulting not only in early addiction, but also increased probability of adult diseases. The Academy is strongly committed to reducing the number of children and adolescents who begin to smoke. Smoking and exposure to second-hand smoke among pregnant women causes low-birth weight babies, preterm delivery, perinatal deaths and sudden infant death syndrome. Other effects may include childhood cancer, childhood leukemia, childhood lymphomas and childhood brain tumors.

Higher cigarette prices are an enormously effective strategy for reducing smoking, particularly among price-sensitive teenagers and young adults. By excluding tobacco from free trade agreements, including the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP), tariffs and other price controls designed to decrease tobacco use will remain in effect. New intellectual property rights would also not be extended to tobacco manufacturers, which they could otherwise use to challenge effective product controls on marketing and packaging such as warning labels. Hard fought victories in tobacco control must not be sacrificed the interest of promoting free trade.

Thank you for your consideration of the health of all children worldwide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "O. Marion Burton MD".

O. Marion Burton, MD, FAAP  
President

OMB/jdb