

## Murphy Lauds Passage of Landmark Bill to Regulate Tobacco Products

Today the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1256, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, to grant the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authority to regulate the advertising, marketing, and manufacturing of tobacco products in order to protect the public health.

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1256, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, to grant the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authority to regulate the advertising, marketing, and manufacturing of tobacco products in order to protect the public health.

"Frankly, it's unbelievable that it's taken us this long to regulate what goes into tobacco and how it's marketed. The federal government regulates everything from toys, to the meat we eat, to tongue depressors, so it's time that we protect the health of millions of Americans by giving the FDA the authority to regulate both the marketing and manufacturing of tobacco products," said Murphy.

Murphy has a long history of protecting the public from the harmful effects of smoking. As the Chairman of the Public Health Committee in the Connecticut General Assembly, he authored the state's law banning smoking in bars and restaurants. The ban has been a success in Connecticut, protecting public health from dangerous second hand smoke, while business has continued unaffected.

The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act will provide FDA the authority to regulate tobacco products under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. FDA will have authority to require changes in current and future tobacco products to protect public health, such as the reduction or elimination of harmful ingredients, additives and constituents.

FDA will have the authority to prevent the dangerous and all-too prevalent marketing and sales of tobacco to kids. This legislation will also empower FDA to prevent tobacco companies from making false and misleading claims about their products and to require that all product claims be based on scientific evidence.

The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act will reinstate FDA's 1996 rule aimed at reducing underage smoking, which includes provisions that will ban outdoor advertising of tobacco within 1,000 feet of schools and playgrounds, ban all remaining tobacco-brand sponsorships of sports and entertainment events, and restrict vending machines to adult-only facilities.

The legislation will also prohibit the use of misleading terms such as "light," "low-tar," and "mild" and require larger, more specific health warnings. Finally, the bill provides FDA access to data about tobacco product ingredients that can be used in designing new product standards and new disclosure requirements.

"For far too long, the harmful affects of tobacco products have been covered up by slick marketing. Now, we will be able to better inform the public about what they are about to put in their bodies," said Murphy.

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