

FRIENDS OF NIDA

William L. Dewey
Friends of NIDA
Post Office Box 980613
Richmond, VA 23298-0613

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Communities of America**

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April 12, 2005

«FormalName»
«CapStreet2»
«CapCityStZip»

Dear «Salutation»,

We are writing representing the Friends of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to ask that you consider joining the Congressional Task Force on Tobacco and Health, an important bipartisan caucus of approximately 70 Members of Congress working for public policies to discourage tobacco use and promote good health.

Statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate that tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of death in the United States, causing more than 440,000 deaths each year and resulting in an annual cost of more than \$75 billion in direct medical costs. Approximately 80% of adult smokers started smoking before the age of 18. Every day, nearly 4,000 young people under the age of 18 try their first cigarette.

Research funded by NIDA and other scientific agencies has helped identify many of the neural pathways involved in nicotine addiction, leading to successful new treatments as well as effective prevention strategies. Studies have shown that pharmacological treatment combined with behavioral treatment, including psychological support and skills training to overcome high-risk situations, results in some of the highest long-term abstinence rates.

Given the devastating effects of tobacco use, particularly for young Americans, we urge you to endorse the efforts of your colleagues by joining the Congressional Task Force on Tobacco and Health, co-chaired by Representatives Marty Meehan and Todd Platts.

Please contact Shilpa Phadke (225-3411) on Congressman Meehan's staff or Becky Braunstein (225-5836) on Congressman Platts' staff for more information.

Friends of NIDA:

American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American College Health Association
American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Psychological Society

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American Society of Addiction Medicine
American Sociological Association
Association for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse
Association of Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
College on Problems of Drug Dependence
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America
Federation of Behavioral, Psychological and Cognitive Sciences
Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research
International Nurses Society on Addictions
Legal Action Center
National Association for Children of Alcoholics
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc.
National Families in Action
Society for Research in Child Development
Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco
State Associations of Addiction Services