

# FRIENDS OF NIDA

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

## Executive Committee

Linda Crawford, Therapeutic  
Communities of America

William Dewey (Chair)  
College on Problems of  
Drug Dependence

Marie Dyak, Entertainment  
Industries Council, Inc.

Alexa Eggleston,  
Legal Action Center

Karen Freeman-Wilson,  
National Association of  
Drug Court Professionals

Eileen McGrath,  
American Society  
of Addiction Medicine

Robert Morrison,  
National Association of  
State Alcohol/Drug  
Abuse Directors

Geoffrey Mumford, American  
Psychological Association

Charles O'Keeffe, Virginia  
Commonwealth University

Richard Rosenthal, American  
Academy of Addiction  
Psychiatry

Sue Thau,  
Community Anti-Drug  
Coalitions of America

Jonathan Westin,  
National Association of  
Alcohol and Drug Abuse  
Counselors

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

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  
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