

Congressman Rothman Votes for the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act

Tobacco Is Currently the Number-One Cause of Preventable Death

In America, Responsible for More than 400,000 Deaths A Year

(Washington, DC) — Today, Congressman Steve Rothman (D — NJ), voted to give the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) the authority to regulate the advertising, marketing, and manufacturing of tobacco products. H.R. 1256, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act passed the U.S. House 307 to 97 today, previously passed the Senate and will now be sent to the President's desk for his signature.

"With the passage of this historic legislation, Congress today took a long sought step to prevent any more suffering and death resulting from cigarette and tobacco addiction," said Rothman. "Science has proven that tobacco causes heart disease, cancer, emphysema, as well as countless other chronic illnesses. By giving the FDA the authority to restrict tobacco marketing, require detailed disclosure of tobacco product ingredients, prohibit the use of misleading descriptors of tobacco products, and allow the FDA to demand changes in tobacco product ingredients, our government can help keep our children and succeeding generations from becoming the victims of tobacco addiction."

Tobacco is currently the number-one cause of preventable death in America. It is responsible for about 1 in 5 deaths annually, or about 443,000 deaths per year according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Smoking-related deaths account for more deaths than AIDS, alcohol, cocaine, heroin, homicide, suicide, motor vehicle crashes and fires combined. Approximately 8.6 million Americans also suffer from chronic illnesses related to smoking. A thousand American children become regular, addicted smokers each day. In addition to the lives lost to tobacco, the financial losses amount to billions of dollars. The CDC estimates that cigarette smoking costs more than \$193 billion annually, based on lost productivity (\$97 billion) and health care expenditures (\$96 billion).

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