

# † AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION®

Fighting for Air

Written Testimony in Opposition to HR 6026  
House Federal and State Affairs  
April 26, 2012

Dear Rep. Brunk and Members of the Committee:

**American Lung Association, Plains-Gulf Region, strongly opposes HR 6026 and the efforts of RJ Reynolds to mandate an analysis and study of "other tobacco products" for use as one component in a comprehensive tobacco control.** In fact, we know the opposite to be true. The use of other tobacco products leads to "dual-use" instead of a reduction in usage.

This proposed "harm reduction" study is tantamount to suggesting Kansas study trading oral and esophageal cancers for lung cancer and emphysema. No legitimate public health policy would allow such a trade. And spending public funds to carry out research as proposed would be no different than studying "Russian Roulette." The end result is tragic whether the bullets are smokeless tobacco or the same product which is smoked.

The National Cancer Institute, the American Cancer Society, the U.S. Surgeon General and the U.S. Public Health Service have all concluded that smokeless tobacco products as sold in the United States are addictive and cause serious disease, including cancer. A number of products have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration as safe and effective for tobacco cessation. No smokeless tobacco product has ever been proven either safe or effective for this purpose.

If you want to know the future of tobacco's effect on the health of citizens in Kansas, you need only to look to the past. Beginning in 1963 with a landmark report of the U.S. Surgeon General, we have known that tobacco, in all its forms, has killed our citizens and will continue to kill them until they are protected.

This type of resolution is also a thinly veiled attempt to addict underage youth to tobacco since the smokeless form has proven to be a gateway to smoking for youth. We are confident that this committee will be able to see through this absurd ruse by a tobacco company.

Let's leave regulation of this deadly product in the hands of the FDA. Let's reserve scarce public health funding for efforts to treat, prevent and cure. We call upon the Federal and State Affairs Committee to reject this end run of federal law, and protect the citizens of Kansas.

Sincerely,



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House Federal & State Affairs

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Attachment # 12