

Release KD

Coalition on Smoking OR Health

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** ACTION ALERT **

PLEASE WRITE IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED SMOKING BAN IN ALL FEDERAL BUILDINGS

TO: Interested Organizations
FROM: Coalition on Smoking OR Health
DATE: March 19, 1991

Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis Sullivan is preparing to ask President Bush to sign an executive order prohibiting smoking in all federal buildings. The American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association and the American Lung Association, united as the Coalition on Smoking OR Health, has written to President Bush and Office of Management and Budget Director Richard Darman in support of Secretary Sullivan's proposal, urging the President to sign the executive order. A copy of the Coalition's letter to President Bush is attached for your reference. The letter highlights the reasons why the proposed executive order is needed and justified based on the well-documented hazards posed by environmental tobacco smoke in enclosed areas.

Please write at your earliest convenience to President Bush and Mr. Darman (with copies to Secretary Sullivan and our office) urging that the President sign the executive order. The order would cover virtually all federal office space, including veteran's hospitals and post offices. It would not affect uniformed services, congressional offices or the Supreme Court. While the Coalition's organizations would prefer that no such exemptions be included in the order, we firmly believe that the order would significantly strengthen protection of nonsmokers in federal buildings around the country. Currently, each federal department and agency sets its own smoking policy, leading, in some cases, to woefully inadequate protection for federal workers, including those who suffer from respiratory and other illnesses that place them at great risk in the presence of others' cigarette smoke.

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The Sullivan proposal was made public in a Knight-Ridder wire story published in the Chicago Tribune on March 7, 1991. It is anticipated that the tobacco industry will respond by seeking to persuade President Bush and officials at the Office of Management and Budget that the proposal should be rejected. To succeed, therefore, the proposal requires a strong showing of support from all of our organizations in the public health, educational, religious, women's, minority, insurance and other fields. Your cooperation would be greatly appreciated.

President Bush and Mr. Darman can be contacted at the following addresses:

President George H. W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Richard Darman
Director
Office of Management and Budget
17th St. and Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503

Copies may be sent to Secretary Sullivan at the following address:

The Honorable Louis Sullivan, M.D.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and
Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Thank you, in advance, for responding quickly to this action request. If you have any questions, please contact M. Arnita Hannon at the American Lung Association, (202)785-3355, or Cliff Douglas at the Coalition on Smoking OR Health, (202)234-9375.

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Attachment

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