



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

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CONGRES - SCHWEIKER

March 10, 1981

Mr. Richard S. Schweiker
Office of the Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Schweiker:

The publicly announced intention to eliminate anti-smoking educational efforts built into government policy and projections for 1990 by the last administration, I suggest, is incompatible with your goal to forward prevention during your administration, and with the health of the American public. I am sure you know that, but it is inconceivable to those working in the public health to think that the careful evidence, and now national policy, built on this issue would be thrown out during your tenure. Rather goals should be to diversify the tobacco industry and support the tobacco farmer to do other things than to grow tobacco, including land banks. Smoking brings a terrible social burden and expense to the nation from tobacco related diseases.

Sincerely,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director
Professor of Medicine

HB:jml

cc: J. Stamler, Chairman, Epidemiology Council, American Heart Association
J. Schoenberger, President, American Heart Association
M. Jacobson, Center for Science in the Public Interest
P. Buffler, Chairman, Epidemiology Council, American Public Health Association

3/21/81
JML