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July 29, 2010

Vinayak Jha, MD  
Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine  
George Washington University Medical Faculty Associates  
2150 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Suite 5-425  
Washington DC, 20037

Dear Dr. Jha:

This letter is written, on behalf of the American Thoracic Society, to indicate our endorsement and support for you to petition both the District of Columbia Board of Pharmacy and the Council of the District of Columbia, requesting pharmacies in the District to stop selling tobacco products to all consumers. We applaud your proactive efforts to discourage the acceptability of tobacco sales in pharmacies whose mission includes disease prevention and health promotion among their consumers.

As a professional society composed of researchers and clinicians who are committed to the eradication of tobacco-attributable lung diseases, The American Thoracic Society commends your hard work in the elimination of pharmacy tobacco sales. We encourage you to continue to promote a tobacco-free environment and look forward to future District initiatives that shape a comprehensive approach to tobacco control. As members of the health care community, we must all work together to create, test and implement tobacco control policies that provide the greatest impact for reducing tobacco consumption.

Congratulations again and best wishes.

Sincerely,

Dean Schraufnagel, MD  
President, American Thoracic Society

Mary Ellen Wewers, PhD, MPH  
Chair, ATS Tobacco Control Committee



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