



Pennsylvania Society for Respiratory Care, Inc.

Representative Matthew E. Baker
Chairman, House Health Committee
108 Ryan Office Bldg.
PO Box 202068
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2068

April 5, 2011

Dear Representative Baker,

As President of the Pennsylvania Society for Respiratory Care (PSRC), and on behalf of the 7,000 Respiratory Therapists working in the state of Pennsylvania, I am contacting you regarding HB 1254 which has been referred to your committee. Representative Reese has introduced HB 1254 to amend the Public Welfare Code to disallow the purchasing of tobacco products or paraphernalia with an electronic benefits transfer card or debit card issued by the Department of Public Welfare used to convey support moneys.

According to the American Lung Association, over 392,000 people die from tobacco-related diseases every year in the U.S., making it the leading cause of preventable death. Another 50,000 people die from exposure to secondhand smoke. The PSRC supports policies such as HB1254 to reduce tobacco consumption.

Thank you,

Steve Mosakowski MBA, RRT-NPS, CPFT
2011 President, Pennsylvania Society for Respiratory Care

cc to: Representative Mike Reese