



CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES

HUMAN USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS CAN DIMINISH HEALTH AND LEAD TO CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS AND DISABILITY

Federal controls are needed to address issues associated with lethal smokeless tobacco products that contribute to chronic health conditions, diminished health and disability.

A Congressional briefing was held on “Smoking Prevention and Cessation for Women in the Military”. Presenters at the forum were members from the House of Representatives who were public health advocates, a researcher on smoking cessation, and the Director of the Office of Public Health Policy Prevention of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Summary

There are 43 million smokers in the U.S. and 70% try to quit. The dramatic decline in smoking has come to a halt in the U. S. as the tobacco industry has found new ways of introducing products to addict Americans to tobacco. The “Smoking Prevention” forum was clear that environmental conditions affect smoking. For instance, 20% of the general population smoke and 36% of army personnel smoke. In, addition, 38% of enlisted military smokers began after enlistment

Disability Prevention Issue

The human use of tobacco results in demised health of people that leads to a host of chronic health conditions and disability. Chronic health conditions caused, in part, by tobacco use are responsible for over 70% of health care costs. Congress has initiated efforts to regulate tobacco products through the Federal Drug Administration. However, more federal controls on tobacco products are needed. For instance, federal regulations are insufficient to regulate a new and lethal smokeless tobacco product, snus, which is extremely harmful if used with tobacco smoke,

Activity

A letter was written to a legislator who made a presentation at the forum to comment on smoking from a public health and disability prevention perspective.

Principle

All tobacco products marketed for human consumption should be thoroughly regulated to prevent diminished health of the public.