

JOHNS HOPKINS  
UNIVERSITY

**Bloomberg School of Public Health**

Department of Epidemiology  
615 N. Wolfe Street / Suite W6041  
Baltimore MD 21205-2170  
410-955-3286 / Fax 410-614-0467

Office of the Chairman

November 7, 2007

Baltimore City Health Department  
210 Guilford Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21209

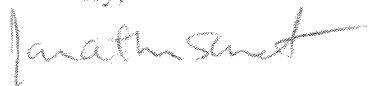
Att: Rianna Brown

To Whom It May Concern:

I write in support of the "Proposed Regulation on Fire Safety Standards for Cigarettes in Baltimore City, as proposed by the Baltimore City Health Department on October 10, 2007. As a public health scientist long involved in tobacco control at local, national and international levels, I offer my strong support for this regulation, which has the potential to prevent unnecessary injury and death once in force. Nationally, fires caused by smoking cause over 700 deaths per year, as well as resulting in a substantial burden of burn injury and property loss. Even though technology exists to reduce the fire risk of cigarettes, the tobacco industry has resisted their implementation. While a state-wide standard for fire-safe cigarettes will come into force on July 1, 2008, there is no reason not to proceed with a Bill at this time for Baltimore City, where the nature of the housing stock may increase the risk for serious house fires caused by cigarettes.

Cigarettes cause premature death and disease through many mechanisms, including causing cancer, lung disease, and heart disease for the long-term period. A major goal of tobacco control for the long-term is to prevent children from starting to smoke and to promote cessation by adults so as to reduce this burden of avoidable premature death and disease. By implementing a fire-safe cigarette standard, Baltimore City has the possibility of preventing avoidable death on the short-term. I urge passage of the Bill, which should save some lives by affording Baltimore City residents the protection available from fire-safe cigarettes.

Sincerely,



Jonathan M. Samet, M.D., M.S.  
Professor and Chairman  
Jacob I and Irene B. Fabrikant Professor in Health, Risk, and Society

JMS/dvw