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FRAMEWORK FOR TOBACCO LEGISLATION

House Republicans will:

- 1) Produce an unprecedented legislative effort to reduce both teenage smoking and drug use.
- 2) Permit no special protection to the tobacco industry against lawsuits, no caps on liability nor any other favorable treatment that would shield the industry from full liability.
- 3) Define new, specific authority for FDA to regulate the manufacture of tobacco products, while avoiding black markets and criminal activity.
- 4) Grant the FTC enhanced authority and penalties to vigorously police tobacco advertising to teenagers.
- 5) Launch a national advertising campaign to reduce teenage smoking and drug use with funding provided to the Drug Czar's Office.
- 6) Create a federal model for States to enact uniform laws penalizing those who sell tobacco to minors, as well as minors who possess tobacco products. Penalties for possession by minors will include parental notification, suspension of driver's licenses and community service.
- 7) Permit States to retain all proceeds from lawsuits against the tobacco industry provided lawyers are paid only reasonable, documented fees and expenses.

Q&A on Tobacco
June 25, 1998

Q. What are your thoughts on the proposed House Republican tobacco bill?

A. Today, House Republicans released an outline of watered-down tobacco legislation they want to force through the House next month. House Republican leaders have made the same wrong choice as their Senate counterparts: to do what the tobacco lobby wants, not what America's parents want. Three thousand young people start smoking every day; one thousand will die early as a result. A bill written by the tobacco industry won't save children's lives, and it won't save the political lives of the politicians who are cynically promoting it, either. A bipartisan majority of Senators support comprehensive legislation to raise the price of cigarettes to reduce teen smoking, give FDA full authority over tobacco products, and impose heavy surcharges on tobacco companies that keep marketing cigarettes to young people. The only thing the House Republican bill does about teen smoking is to let the tobacco industry keep getting away with it.

Note: The VP's office is planning to insert a statement into his remarks today.

