

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 13-221

RE: C.R. NO. 127/EA

SUBJECT: RATIFICATION OF FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL

JANUARY 25, 2005

The Honorable Peter M. Christian
Speaker, Thirteenth Congress
Federated States of Micronesia
Fifth Regular Session, 2005

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on External Affairs, to which was referred C.R. No. 13-127 entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO ACCEDE TO THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.",

begs leave to report as follows:

The intent and purpose of the resolution are expressed in its title.

The Framework Convention on Tobacco Control ('the Convention'), as its name suggests, sets out a framework for the control of tobacco within the member countries including:

1. reducing demand by financial measures including taxation;
2. reducing demand by measures such as advertising bans, education, health warnings on packaging, programs to assist people to cease smoking;
3. ensuring that workplaces, public transport and indoor public spaces are smoke free;
4. prevention of sales to and by minors;
5. undertaking research, and monitoring regarding the health effects of smoking; and
6. requiring an annual report to be produced by each member country on steps taken in relation to tobacco control.

Each member state is required to make tobacco control a policy priority and to work toward the goals set out above, to the extent that resources and capabilities permit.

The treaty received the requisite number of signatures to come into force on November 29, 2004.

Although the goals set by this convention are to be met by each member state only to the extent that it has the capacity to do so, it is likely that compliance will require the appropriation of funds by

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Congress in the future. For example, funds will be required to address the availability of quit smoking programs and tracking of the health effects of tobacco use in the FSM.

While accession to the Convention may involve some expenditure, your Committee considers that the overall benefits will outweigh the cost. Globally, tobacco use claims the lives of nearly 5 million people each year. Almost 20% of these deaths occur in the Western Pacific Region. In the view of your Committee, implementing effective policies to reduce tobacco use would have significant health and other benefits for the FSM.

Your committee has given serious consideration to this resolution and its purpose. Your committee therefore recommends the following technical change to C.R. No. 13-127:

1. Line 7 - delete "Third Regular Session, 2004" and insert "Fifth Regular Session, 2005" in lieu thereof.

Your Committee on External Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 13-127 and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 13-127, C.D.1.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Isaac V. Figir
Isaac V. Figir, chairman

Dion G. Neth, member

/s/ Alik L. Alik
Alik L. Alik, member

/s/ Henry C. Asugar
Henry C. Asugar, member

Resio Moses, member

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos
Tiwiter Aritos, member

Many Mori, member