

## SFAC welcomes Parliament's support for a package of measures to reduce smoking and protect children

10 February 2014

On 10th February 2014, the House of Commons [debated](#) the [tobacco amendments to the Children and Families Bill](#) which had been added at [third reading](#) in the House of Lords. These amendments:

- Enable the Government to introduce regulations requiring standardised packaging for tobacco products.
- Enable the Government to introduce regulations making it an offence to sell e-cigarettes to children under 18.
- Make it an offence for an adult to buy cigarettes for anyone under 18 (proxy purchasing)
- Enable the Government to introduce regulations making it an offence to smoke in a private vehicle carrying children.

The amendments on standardised packaging, proxy purchasing and age of sale were Government amendments and the vote which was whipped was 453 in favour and 24 against, a majority of 429. There was a free vote on the amendment to introduce a ban on smoking in cars when children are present and this was approved by 376 to 107, a majority of 269.

The Bill is now waiting for Royal Assent to become law. To bring the legislation into effect will require regulations to be developed and put before Parliament for a further vote.

On standardised packaging, the Government will decide whether to proceed with regulations after the Chantler review has reported (link to announcement from November). For more information on standardised packaging, click [here](#).

On smoking in cars, the Prime Minister's official spokesman said that David Cameron thinks that "[the time has come](#)" for a new offence of exposing children to smoke in vehicles.

In November 2011, the All Party Parliamentary Group on Smoking and Health conducted an inquiry into smoking in private vehicles. The report can be downloaded as a pdf by clicking [here](#). The British Lung Foundation has produced a briefing for MPs which available for download [here](#) (pdf).