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## **Taxpayer Watchdog Releases New Report on FDA Reform**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Today, the Taxpayers Protection Alliance (TPA) released a new report, “*Reforming the FDA: Saving Money, Saving Lives.*” From medicine approval to tobacco harm reduction to human (and pet) food regulation, the report shows the depth and breadth of the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) impact on consumers and taxpayers.

TPA President David Williams stated, “the FDA is responsible for the approval and regulation of prescription drugs, tobacco products, medical devices, and food items. The agency has countless opportunities to improve the lives of hundreds of millions of taxpayers and consumers but continually drags its feet in approving life-saving drugs and products. Because of the agency’s strict statistical standards, more than 9 out of every 10 ‘experimental’ medications never make it to patients. This problem will only get worse over time, as promising immunotherapy drugs struggle to find enough clinical study participants to meet strict FDA guidelines.”

Williams continued: “the FDA has dropped the ball on helping millions of Americans quit smoking traditional cigarettes. The last alternative tobacco product submitted for a premarket tobacco product application process took more than 700 days, well past the agency’s own guidelines stipulating a 180-day evaluation window. The FDA should reaffirm its own evaluation timetables, and publicly promise to maintain an expedient approvals process. To hold itself accountable, the agency should commit to automatically approving any product that it fails to evaluate within the determination timetable it gives itself. Reforming their evaluation process would be a welcome alternative to the current, misguided FDA war on vaping products.”

Williams concluded: “one of America’s largest agencies is at a crossroads. The FDA could choose to put patients and consumers first by approving life-saving medications and tobacco harm reduction products, in addition to reevaluating food guidelines. Instead of pursuing the old model of risk aversion and foot-dragging, the FDA needs to modernize and strive to meet the needs of taxpayers and consumers.”

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*Taxpayers Protection Alliance (TPA) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to educating the public through the research, analysis and dissemination of information on the government's effects on the economy.*