

Congressional budget deal protects kids by rejecting tobacco industry giveaways

The budget agreement reached by congressional negotiators delivers critical victories for America’s kids and health over the tobacco industry by rejecting proposals to greatly weaken FDA oversight of electronic cigarettes and cigars and slash funding for the CDC’s programs to reduce tobacco use. By rejecting these special-interest giveaways to tobacco companies, this agreement preserves the FDA’s ability to protect kids from



TISHA BROWN-GAINES
Lexington native graduates from University of Mississippi

Tisha Brown-Gaines of Lexington, MS will graduate with a Doctorate of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in Engineering Science with an emphasis in Computer Science from the University of Mississippi. A special hooding ceremony will take place on May 12, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. for Ph.D. graduates. The university wide commencement ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 13 at 11:00 a.m.

While at the University of Mississippi, Mrs. Brown-Gaines served as a graduate instructor and Turning Technologies intern. She received a M.S. degree in Computer Science from Jackson State University and a B.S. degree in Computer Science from Mississippi Valley State University. Mrs. Brown-Gaines is a former McNair, Mississippi Space Grant Consortium, LSMAMP-Bridge to the Doctorate, DOE Mickey Leland Energy and Southern Regional Education Broad (SREB) Fellow. In addition she completed a dissertation entitled “On Connectivity, Coverage and Network Optimization in Wireless Video Sensor Networks for 3D Indoor Monitoring.”

Mrs. Brown-Gaines is currently interviewing for multiple faculty positions and extremely excited about her upcoming professional career in academia.

She is the daughter of Lorenzo and Pecola Brown of Lexington, MS.

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the huge assortment of candy-flavored e-cigarettes and cigars that have flooded the market in recent years and threaten to addict a new generation. The agreement bolsters the nation’s fight against tobacco use – the No. 1 cause of preventable

death.

The agreement leaves out two provisions sought by tobacco companies that would weaken FDA oversight of e-cigarettes and cigars and help manufacturers target kids with candy-flavored products:

- One provision would limit FDA oversight of e-cigarettes and cigars already on the mar-



Lily Fran McCrory of Lexington (pictured second from left) was awarded the Excellence in Education Award by Holmes County Chamber of Commerce President Charlie Joiner (pictured at right) during the 28th Annual Holmes County Chamber of Commerce Membership/Awards Banquet that was held at the Carroll Cafeteria on the campus of Holmes Community College in Goodman on Thursday, April 13. McCrory accepted the honor for achieving the highest academic grade point averages at the elementary, secondary and college levels, ranking #1 in her major field of Biological Sciences, #1 in the College of Arts & Sciences and #1 overall in the 2017 graduating class from Mississippi State University. Picture above (from left) is Lily Fran’s mother and Holmes County Chamber of Commerce Past President Robin McCrory, Lily Fran, Frankie McCrory, Lily Fran’s father, and Joiner. (Photo by Matthew Breazeale)



Hammett Gravel Company Incorporated of Lexington was awarded the Economic Development Award by Holmes County Chamber of Commerce President Charlie Joiner (pictured at left) during the 28th Annual Holmes County Chamber of Commerce Membership/Awards Banquet that was held at the Carroll Cafeteria on the campus of Holmes Community College in Goodman on Thursday, April 13. Harold Hammett (pictured center) accepted the honor, for 75 years of successful business operations and employment opportunities. Hammett is flanked by Holmes County Chamber of Commerce Past President Robin McCrory. (Photo by Matthew Breazeale)

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ket, including the many sweet-flavored products that have been introduced in recent years and proven popular with kids. This agreement preserves the FDA’s ability to review these products and take action to protect our kids.

- The second provision would completely exempt so-called “large and premium” cigars from FDA oversight, but defines such cigars so broadly that it could end up exempting, cheap, machine-made, flavored cigars that are widely used by kids.

Tobacco companies waged an all-out effort to insert these provisions in the funding bill. The New York Times has reported that Altria drafted the first of these provisions and that it was endorsed by R.J. Reynolds. Altria and Reynolds gave \$500,000 and \$1 million respectively to President Trump’s inauguration, and tobacco interests spent more than \$4.7 million in federal lobbying in the first quarter of 2017 alone.

The budget agreement also provides \$205 million for the CDC’s tobacco prevention and cessation programs, rejecting a House proposal that slashed funding to only \$100 million (compared to \$210 million in FY2016). The CDC will be able to continue initiatives such as the Tips from Former Smokers media campaign that has been so cost effective at helping smokers quit, as well as its assistance to state tobacco prevention programs and quitlines that help smokers trying to quit.

While this agreement is an important step forward, the

tobacco industry is certain to continue its attacks on FDA and CDC efforts to reduce tobacco use – and even expand them. Legislation introduced last week by Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-CA) would repeal the FDA’s current authority to regulate electronic cigarettes and essentially allow the e-cigarette industry to regulate

itself. Tobacco interests have also filed multiple lawsuits against the FDA’s 2016 rule establishing oversight of e-cigarettes and cigars. Congress and the Trump Administration must continue to reject these harmful tobacco industry efforts.

**Statement by Matthew L. Myers, President, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids*



TANNER BARTLETT AND MARY KATE JENKINS

Jenkins-Bartlett set to wed

Mr. and Mrs. Tim Jenkins of Sallis announce the engagement of their daughter Mary Katherine to Michael Tanner Bartlett son of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Bartlett, Jr. of Kilmichael.

The bride is the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. George Speed of Goodman and the late Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Jenkins of Sallis.

Mary Kate is a 2010 graduate of Kosciusko High School and a 2013 graduate of Holmes Community College. She is currently pursuing a BS degree in Social Work/Health Services from

Mississippi State University. The groom is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley E. Carson of Raymond, Mr. and Mrs. Terry Howard of Winona, and Mr. and Mrs. Mike Bartlett, Sr. of Brandon, MS.

Tanner is a 2012 graduate of Winona Christian School and a 2014 graduate of Mississippi Delta Community College Line-man School.

He is presently employed with Entergy in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The couple will make their home in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



I really miss you. While you were alive you taught me many things. You taught me how to love unconditionally, you taught me how to live life to the fullest, you taught me how to have fun and laugh, you taught me how to express emotions and cry, but the one thing you never taught me was how to cope without you in my life. and I'm really missing you!