

College of Community
Health Sciences

Department of Family Medicine

March 20, 2001

THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA
HEALTH SCIENCES

Bill Cassels
Administrator
DCH Regional Medical Center
809 University Blvd., E.
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Dear Mr. Cassels:

A year ago you kindly addressed the problem of the sale of tobacco products at DCH. It is therefore disheartening to learn that smokeless tobacco continues to be dispensed in the hospital. My understanding was that following the immediate removal of all tobacco product displays, only the remaining supplies of tobacco products were permitted to be sold. That an under-the-counter trade persists fully a year later is disappointing, to say the least.

Next month I have been asked to give the keynote address at Alabama's first statewide conference on reducing morbidity and mortality from tobacco use. I find it sadly ironic that our own hospital appears to be missing a golden opportunity to take a leadership role in this effort.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Alan Blum, M.D.
Professor and Gerald Leon Wallace Endowed Chair in Family Medicine

AB.jc

University of Alabama
School of Medicine
Tuscaloosa Program
700 University Blvd. E.
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401
(205) 348-2880
FAX (205) 348-2889