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Health and Educational Groups Ask FDA to Limit Radiation in Classrooms

Wireless Routers and Access Points Are Creating Unnecessary Radiation Exposure for Children

(New York, NY) A coalition of public health, educational and environmental non-profit organizations joined by hundreds of teachers, parents, grandparents and students is asking the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to comply with Federal Law requiring the agency to protect children from "unnecessary" exposure to radiofrequency (RF) radiation emitted from wireless routers and access points in school classrooms. In a Citizens' Petition filed today, the groups demand the agency issue an immediate Health Advisory to all public and private schools including day care centers.

"Children are physiologically more vulnerable than adults and should never be exposed to any level of unnecessary radiation," says Doug Wood, Founder of lead Petitioner Americans for Responsible Technology. "Routers and access points are typically shipped from the factory set for maximum output. Those devices need to be adjusted to emit only the amount of RF radiation actually required to make the equipment function. Anything else is, by definition, unnecessary, and triggers FDA's obligation to take action."

Federal law (21 USC 36011(a)(2)) requires the FDA to "*plan, conduct, coordinate, and support research, development, training, and operational activities to minimize the emissions of and the exposure of people to, unnecessary electronic product radiation.*" So far, the agency has failed to act.

Federal regulations concerning human exposure to wireless radiation were adopted back in the last century, long before the introduction of wireless technologies into school classrooms. The guidelines are based on adult models and bear no relationship to a child's exposure in school. The groups claim the old guidelines should not be used to excuse or justify the exposure of any child to any level of unnecessary radiation.

Organizations supporting the Petition include Environmental Health Trust, Grassroots Environmental Education, Wired Broadband Inc., Consumers for Safe Cell Phones, Manhattan Neighbors for Safe Technology, Keep Cell Antennas Away, SafeTechNC, Massachusetts for Safe Technology, and the California Brain Tumor Association. A full list of supporters is available at www.Americans4rt.org/fdapetition3

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Americans for Responsible Technology is a national coalition of grassroots organizations dedicated to protecting the health and safety of children, helping communities deploy safe, economical and future-proof wired technologies, and promoting equitable access to technologies that benefit society and protect the health, safety, security, privacy and property of all Americans. More information at www.Americans4rt.org.