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8 March 1982

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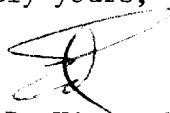
C. Everett Koop, M.D.
Surgeon-General of the United States
Room 716-C, Humphrey Bldg.
200 Independence Ave., S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Chick:

I just wanted to commend you on the strong stand you took publicly last week with respect to smoking. As an oncologist who daily deals with the sad results of this despicable habit, I have long felt that our government has been pussy-footing around with the cigarette issue for far too long. Certainly the surgeon-general's office must give leadership to our efforts against smoking and I was delighted to have seen you on the front page of the New York Times where this office and this issue both belong.

I hope you are enjoying your new life and all is well with you and Betty. I saw your son for his physical several months ago and he seems well.

Sincerely yours,



Edward D. Viner, M.D.
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EDV:kme