



September 13, 2010

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the millions of Americans impacted by lung diseases, we are writing to urge you to vote NO on Senator Johanns' amendment (No. 4596) to the Small Business Jobs and Credit Act of 2010 and YES on Senator Nelson's (No. 4595) alternative amendment. Senator Johanns' amendment will raid the critical Prevention and Public Health Fund, created by the Patient Affordable Care Act, and will have severe consequences on our health system that will affect all Americans. The Johanns amendment would also result in an additional two million Americans not having health coverage, including Americans with lung diseases like asthma and COPD.

For too long, our system has focused on treating the sick instead of preventing disease. The Prevention and Public Health Fund is crucial in financing proven and effective public health and wellness programs. Already the Prevention and Public Health Fund is helping states monitor infectious disease outbreaks, such as influenza, and prevent and treat diseases, including COPD, lung cancer and asthma. The Fund is also expected to significantly invest in tobacco prevention and cessation programs in the next two years. These programs have been proven to work at reducing the terrible burden caused by tobacco use, including the \$96 billion in annual smoking-attributable healthcare costs.

Senator Johanns' amendment also contains a provision that would result in two million fewer people – including those with lung diseases – having health insurance. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has estimated that this provision alone will lead to higher premiums for Americans who are insured, as insurance risk costs would be spread over fewer insured Americans.

Senator Bill Nelson has offered an alternative amendment (No. 4595) that would reduce the burden on businesses but also save these vital public health programs. His amendment would be paid for by eliminating tax cuts for the five largest oil companies and NOT with money from the Prevention and Public Health Fund. It will also stop efforts to eliminate health insurance for the two million Americans whose coverage would be eliminated under the Johanns Amendment.

Across the entire country, the American Lung Association is committed to improving the lung health of every American and the Prevention and Public Health Fund is critical in our fight. Please vote NO on the Johanns Amendment (No. 4596), and YES on the Nelson amendment (No. 4595). The Prevention and Public Health Fund is a huge step forward in preventing illness and disease in this country, and we cannot afford this step back.

Sincerely,

American Lung Association
American Lung Association in Alabama
American Lung Association in Alaska
American Lung Association in Arizona
American Lung Association in Arkansas
American Lung Association in California
American Lung Association in Colorado
American Lung Association in Connecticut

American Lung Association in Delaware
American Lung Association in Florida
American Lung Association in Georgia
American Lung Association in Hawaii
American Lung Association in Idaho
American Lung Association in Illinois
American Lung Association in Indiana
American Lung Association in Iowa
American Lung Association in Kansas
American Lung Association in Kentucky
American Lung Association in Louisiana
American Lung Association in Maine
American Lung Association in Maryland
American Lung Association in Massachusetts
American Lung Association in Michigan
American Lung Association in Minnesota
American Lung Association in Mississippi
American Lung Association in Missouri
American Lung Association in Montana
American Lung Association in Nebraska
American Lung Association in Nevada
American Lung Association in New Hampshire
American Lung Association in New Jersey
American Lung Association in New Mexico
American Lung Association in New York
American Lung Association in North Carolina
American Lung Association in North Dakota
American Lung Association in Ohio
American Lung Association in Oklahoma
American Lung Association in Oregon
American Lung Association in Pennsylvania
American Lung Association in Rhode Island
American Lung Association in South Carolina
American Lung Association in South Dakota
American Lung Association in Tennessee
American Lung Association in Texas
American Lung Association in the District of Columbia
American Lung Association in Utah
American Lung Association in Vermont
American Lung Association in Virginia
American Lung Association in Washington
American Lung Association in West Virginia
American Lung Association in Wisconsin
American Lung Association in Wyoming