



AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION®
Fighting for Air

Mary H. Partridge
Chair

October 7, 2009

H. James Gooden
Chair-elect

The Honorable Carolyn McCarthy
United States House of Representatives
2346 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Stephen J. Nolan, Esq.
Past-Chair

Christine L. Bryant
Secretary/Treasurer

Arthur A. Cerullo, JD
Nationwide Assembly Speaker

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Charles D. Connor
President &
Chief Executive Officer

1301 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20004-1725
Phone: (202) 785-3355
Fax: (202) 452-1805

14 Wall St.
Suite 8C
New York, NY 10005-2113
Phone: (212) 315-8700

www.LungUSA.org

Dear Congresswoman McCarthy:

I write today to give the American Lung Association's enthusiastic endorsement of the Family Asthma Act. This Act helps take the next steps for reducing the burden and the deaths from one of the nation's most widespread chronic diseases. As the nation's oldest voluntary health organization dedicated to saving lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease, we thank you for introducing this measure.

Asthma is one of the nation's most widespread chronic diseases. In 2008, 23.3 million Americans had asthma, and 7.0 million of them were children. Although no one should die from asthma, each year 3,600 people in the United States die because their disease makes it impossible for them to breathe. This burden comes despite the hard work of the doctors, nurses and respiratory therapists, public health workers, teachers, co-workers and families who need more information and assistance to help those with asthma.

This Family Asthma Act will let us move closer to a solution.

Most importantly, the Family Asthma Act will direct the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to increase asthma surveillance. The CDC will expand surveillance to determine asthma prevalence rates, the severity of asthma in different areas, and the effectiveness of treatment and management options. The results of this surveillance will allow the CDC, in conjunction with state and local health departments, to develop programs and plans that will lead to better health outcomes for asthma patients.

Congresswoman McCarthy
October 7, 2009
Page 2

The Family Asthma Act will also authorize the National Institutes of Health to award grants for pilot projects related to asthma. The projects will be focused on preventing and controlling asthma symptoms and reducing asthma attacks. By increasing the knowledge of environmental and other factors that exacerbate asthma attacks and make them more burdensome, the projects aim to improve self-management among asthma patients and their families.

The American Lung Association has worked tirelessly for many years to improve the lives—indeed, save the lives—of people with asthma. The Family Asthma Act will make a significant step forward in that effort, and on behalf of the American Lung Association, I am proud to give the legislation our wholehearted endorsement.

We look forward to working with you as the legislative process moves forward to ensure that this important piece of legislation becomes law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "CD Connor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first two letters of the first name being large and prominent.

Charles D. Connor
President and CEO