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Harold P. Wimmer

June 13, 2018

Steven W. Monteith
Vice President, Marketing
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Mr. Monteith:

On behalf of the American Lung Association, I write to you today to raise concerns about the "scratch and sniff" stamp series scheduled for release by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) on June 20. For many of the more than 26 million Americans living with asthma – including both postal workers and consumers – fragrances may pose a risk for serious health problems.

Since the launch of the Christmas Seals® campaign 110 years ago – the very first direct mail fundraiser – the USPS has been a crucial component of Lung Association's work. Today, direct mail generates over 25 percent of Lung Association's income from public donations and remains the single largest source of donation income to our organization. We are proud to be strong supporters of an affordable and robust postal service.

As the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease, the American Lung Association is concerned about the impact scented stamps and other fragrances can have on people living with lung diseases, especially asthma. While we understand that the USPS carefully followed its protocol to vet and finalize these new stamps, people with allergies and asthma report that certain odors, even in small amounts, can cause asthma symptoms, including upper respiratory symptoms, shortness of breath and asthma attacks.¹ Fragrances used in workplaces have been linked to new onset asthma.²

The American Lung Association encourages the USPS to move forward with the lovely artwork but without the chemicals that create the fragrance(s) on the stamps. Erika Sward (Erika.Sward@Lung.org/202-715-3451) in our Washington National Office can serve as a point of contact with you on this issue. I look forward to working with you to ensure that stamps can remain both beautiful and safe for everyone.

Sincerely,



Harold P. Wimmer
National President and CEO

Cc: U.S. Postmaster General Megan J. Brennan

¹ Steinemann A. Fragranced consumer products: effects on asthmatics. *Air Qual Atmos Health*. 11: 3-9.

² Weinburge JL, Flattery J, Harmon R. 2017. Fragrances and work-related asthma-California surveillance data, 1993-2012. *J Asthma*. 54: 1041-1050.

