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#### NATIONAL OFFICES

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  
Fax: (212) 608-3219

[www.Lung.org](http://www.Lung.org)

April 26, 2013

Timothy McAfee, MD, M.P.H.  
Director of the Office on Smoking and Health  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
4770 Buford Hwy, NE (K-50)  
Atlanta, Georgia 30341-3717

Dear Dr. McAfee:

On behalf of the American Lung Association, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the 2014 National Youth Tobacco Survey (2014 NYTS) which will gather comprehensive data on the attitudes, knowledge and behaviors of middle and high school students (grades 6-12). From 2003 to 2012, the CDC reported that while youth smoking has declined it has occurred at slower rates than the six years prior to 2003. Conduct of the NYTS provides valuable data to detect rapid changes in tobacco use behaviors and their influences thereby allowing public health organizations, like the American Lung Association, to modify their tobacco prevention and control interventions, if necessary. The NYTS is the only source of such information nationally for middle school students.

Only a small number of classes will be randomly selected within each selected school from required classes to reduce the burden on any one school. The survey will take one regular 45-minute class period to complete and will be administered by specially trained field staff.

The American Lung Association began using the NYTS data in our *Trends in Tobacco Use Report* in 1999 which is an annual compilation of tables and figures depicting tobacco use and subsequent disease. The data collected by the NYTS is fundamental to our successful implementation of programs designed to achieve our tobacco-related strategic goals.

The American Lung Association has long been a leader in the fight against teen tobacco use. Our research-based, state-of-the-art Not-On-Tobacco (N-O-T) program is the most implemented teen cessation program in the United States. As the American Lung Association continues to blaze a trail combating teen tobacco use, solid baseline data like that provided by the NYTS 2014 will continue to help us in our ongoing efforts to assess the value of our cessation and prevention programs.

In addition, the information garnered from the NYTS is frequently used in our policy, advocacy and communication efforts, including in the Lung

Association's annual State of Tobacco Control (SOTC), which evaluates states and the federal government on key tobacco control policies.

I understand that the rights and anonymity of all students are protected and that data will not be reported by school, district or state, but rather it will be presented as representative data of the nation as a whole. Therefore, we encourage and recommend that states, school districts and schools participate voluntarily in this important activity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harold Wimmer". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light gray rectangular background.

Harold Wimmer  
National President and CEO