



April 7, 2010

Mary H. Partridge
Chair

H. James Gooden
Chair-elect

Stephen J. Nolan, Esq.
Past-Chair

Christine L. Bryant
Secretary/Treasurer

Arthur A. Cerullo, JD
Speaker
Nationwide Assembly

Ross P. Lanzafame, Esq.
Speaker-Elect
Nationwide Assembly

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

61 Broadway, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10006-2701
Phone: (212) 315-8700
Fax: (212) 315-8800

www.LungUSA.org

Dana Shelton, M.P.H.
Acting Director, Office on Smoking and Health
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
4770 Buford Hwy, NE (K-50)
Atlanta, Georgia 30341-3717

Dear Ms. Shelton:

On behalf of the American Lung Association, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the 2011 National Youth Tobacco Survey (2011 NYTS), which will gather comprehensive data on the attitudes, knowledge and behaviors of middle and high school students (grades 6-12). The information generated from the 2011 NYTS is essential for measuring the effectiveness of tobacco prevention and education programs, ensuring accountability, and providing an index against which states may compare their own results.

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. 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 smoking cessation program in the United States. Our school-based peer education program, Teens Against Tobacco Use (T.A.T.U.), is a popular teen prevention and education program. As the American Lung Association continues to blaze a trail combating teen tobacco use, solid baseline data like that provided by the NYTS 2011 will help us in our efforts to effectively 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 report, 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,

Charles D. Connor
President and Chief Executive Officer