

2010-11 ADVOCACY AGENDA

TOBACCO CONTROL

Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program. Support legislation that would dedicate funds for comprehensive tobacco control programs based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended program components. CDC recommended annual investment:

- **Florida** - \$210.9 million
- **Georgia** - \$116.5 million
- **South Carolina** - \$62.2 million

Oppose efforts to reduce funding or weaken current laws.

Tobacco Settlement Protection. Support legislation that will mitigate the risk of loss or decline of payments received from the “settling” manufacturers. Oppose special exemptions for current manufacturers as well as attempts to securitize proceeds.

Florida - Nonsettling Manufacturers. Support efforts to impose a fee on cigarettes manufactured by companies who did not participate in Florida’s tobacco settlement.

Tobacco Industry Protection. Oppose measures that would provide special protections for the tobacco industry including special exemptions for tobacco products.

CLEAN INDOOR AIR LAWS

Smoke Free Workplaces. Support legislation that will provide comprehensive smoke free laws that ban smoking in workplaces, including restaurants and bars. Oppose efforts to weaken the current laws.

Local Tobacco Control Ordinances.

- **Florida** - Support legislation that would remove the “preemption clause” from the Clean Indoor Air Act.
- **Georgia and South Carolina** - Oppose legislation that would preempt local smoke free ordinances.

Oppose measures that would restrict the ability of local governments to address laws relating to the sale and use of tobacco products.

OTHER TOBACCO ISSUES

Tobacco Placement/Accessible to Minors. Support legislation that will require retailers to keep tobacco products where they are not easily accessible to minors. Oppose legislation that would prevent local governments from passing tobacco product placement and marketing ordinances.

Tobacco Taxes. Support significant increases in state and federal tobacco taxes to reduce youth smoking. Advocate that funds be used for tobacco use prevention, control, and cessation activities and lung research.

FDA Regulation of Tobacco. Support efforts to implement the Food and Drug Administration regulatory authority over tobacco.

School Health Education. Support efforts to fund comprehensive school health education.

LUNG RESEARCH

Florida - Biomedical Research Program. Support legislation that would increase funding for Florida's James and Esther King and the Bankhead/Coley biomedical research programs. Oppose efforts to reduce funding for biomedical research or to dilute effectiveness of the program.

National Institutes of Health. Urge Florida, Georgia and South Carolina's U.S. Congressional delegations to support increased federal allocations for lung research in the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute budget and other federal institutions that conduct lung research.

COPD. Urge Florida, Georgia and South Carolina's U.S. Congressional delegations to support establishment of a COPD program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

ASTHMA INITIATIVES

Program Infrastructure: Surveillance, Program and Evaluation.

- **Florida** - Support efforts to secure additional funding for the asthma coordinating program and personnel, including managing a state asthma coalition.
- **Georgia and South Carolina** - Oppose efforts to reduce support to the asthma coalitions.

Support efforts to secure funding for asthma surveillance, including data collection, use and dissemination.

School Nurses. Support legislation that will require at least one school nurse per public elementary or secondary school and no less than one school nurse to 750 school age children.

Access to Health Care. Support legislation that would assure "direct choice" of pulmonary and/or asthma specialists and access to health care insurance.

Environment. Support legislation that would secure protective indoor air quality guidelines for schools and implement school policies to protect children on high air pollution days. Support legislation that would protect school children from diesel exhaust emitted from school buses.

INCREASE FUNDING FOR STATE TB CONTROL PROGRAMS

Florida - A.G. Holley State Hospital Expansion. Support state budget allocations and regulatory amendments which will enable the A.G. Holley State TB Hospital, in cooperation with the Florida Department of Health, to increase services, appropriately maintain the physical facility, meet other in-patient and out-patient needs.

State TB Budget. Support state TB programs budget requests to expand services to local public health units (departments), specifically address those populations at high risk for TB in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina and implement innovative ways to reduce TB case rates.

TB Regulatory/Legislative Initiatives. Work with state and local TB Control Coalitions to develop recommendations for regulatory or legislative changes which will improve services to TB patients, increase patient compliance, educate health care professionals, and reduce the case rate in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina, especially in the larger metropolitan areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND AIR POLLUTION ISSUES

Energy Production. Support energy policies that maximize protection of respiratory health including those that use clean energy sources and transition from fossil-fueled power plants to using clean technologies. Support new energy production facilities that use state-of-the-art pollution control technologies and requiring all existing energy production facilities to meet the same pollution control

standards as new facilities. Support conservation and energy efficiency measures, which can significantly reduce the amount of energy demands.

Clean Air Act. Urge Florida, Georgia and South Carolina's U.S. Congressional delegation to support efforts to strengthen the Clean Air Act. Support efforts to strengthen the National Ambient Air Quality Standards set forth in the Clean Air Act. Oppose efforts that would weaken provisions of the Clean Air Act.

Mobile Sources. Support measures to reduce pollution caused by motor vehicles, including cleaner fuels, in-use testing programs and zero emission technology. Support stringent emission standards for on and off road gasoline and diesel heavy-duty engines. Support efforts to reduce emission from school buses, locomotives, and marine engines.

Stationary Sources. Support legislative initiatives to require electric utilities and other stationary sources to meet or exceed clean air standards and decrease air emissions with special emphasis on protecting patients with lung diseases.

State Environmental Regulatory Agencies. Monitor enforcement and regulation of air pollution sources by the regulatory agencies in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina, and oppose efforts that will result in air emissions which have a potentially harmful effect on lung patients.

PATIENT PROTECTION

Access. Support rights of lung patients to have access to pulmonary specialists, and other specialists, pulmonary rehabilitation, and to specified drugs and tests prescribed by their physician.

Access to Health Insurance. Support legislation that would increase access to health insurance for the uninsured. Monitor effects of the health care reform package.

Support efforts to provide coverage for comprehensive tobacco cessation services through Medicaid and state employees' health insurance that is consistent with the Public Health Service's Guidelines, including counseling and all FDA-approved tobacco cessation pharmacotherapy and systemic approaches put in place to provide these services to all who need them.

Support increased funding for medically needy and children's health insurance programs.

Monitor Medicaid reform efforts and oppose provisions that would make it more difficult for lung patients to obtain needed medical care.

CHARITABLE SOLLICITATIONS

Charitable Solicitations. Oppose efforts that would impact the ability to raise funds and provide services. Support efforts to improve workplace giving by creating Public Employee Charitable Campaigns provided by nonprofit charitable federations & member agencies.

Federal Legislation. Monitor federal legislation and tax laws which could impact the American Lung Association of the Southeast's ability to serve the public as a private, non-profit voluntary health agency.

OTHER ISSUES

Florida - Constitutional Amendments.

Oppose measures that would limit the right of Floridians to affect state law in the Florida Constitution. Article I, Section I.

**Sign up with the American Lung Association's Action Network at
www.lungaction.org.**

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