



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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April 23, 2009

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Specter:

Thank you for your continued leadership on public health issues as the Ranking Member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies. The American Lung Association is pleased to offer our support for the *Cures Acceleration Network and National Institutes of Health Reauthorization Act of 2009*.

The establishment of the Cures Acceleration Network (CAN) will be an innovative mechanism for transforming scientific research findings into life improving treatments and cures for patients. It is also critically important that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) be reauthorized at a level of \$40 billion to help solidify expanded funding for the nation's premier health research agency. The establishment of CAN and expansion in NIH funding will be beneficial in advancing research efforts and speeding the development of treatments and cures to a myriad of lung diseases including lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, tuberculosis, and asthma.

The American Lung Association is also pleased that the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities would be elevated to an Institute. Throughout our history, the American Lung Association has made it a priority to expose the health disparities that minority groups face and advocate for research, policies and legislation that would eliminate those disparities. Furthermore, elevation to an Institute is a way to broaden opportunities for public-private partnerships with the National Center and a new avenue for researchers to work with non-traditional partners.

The *Cures Acceleration Network and National Institutes of Health Reauthorization Act of 2009* is a promising legislative proposal that has the potential help to accelerate the development of new treatments and scientific discoveries. The American Lung Association is pleased to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Charles D. Connor  
President and Chief Executive Officer