

## 2014-15 ADVOCACY AGENDA

### **TOBACCO ISSUES**

**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.

**E-Cigarettes.** Support including e-cigarettes in new smokefree laws. Support including e-cigarettes (and refills) in existing state or local youth access laws which limit the sale of tobacco products to under-age youth by refining the definition of tobacco products to include e-cigarettes. Support state laws that would prohibit the sale of any flavored e-cigarette product. Support taxing e-cigarettes at a rate equivalent with traditional cigarettes.

**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.

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

**FDA Regulation of Tobacco.** Support efforts to implement the Food and Drug Administration regulatory authority over all tobacco including electronic devices.

### **TOBACCO FREE LAWS/REGULATIONS**

**Smokefree Workplaces.** Support legislation that will provide comprehensive smokefree laws that ban smoking in workplaces, including restaurants and bars. Laws should include electronic devices. Oppose efforts to weaken the current laws.

**Local Tobacco Control.** Support legislation that would remove the "preemption clause" from Florida's Clean Indoor Air Act. Oppose legislation that would preempt local smokefree or tobacco free ordinances including electronic devices. Oppose measures that would restrict the ability of local governments to address laws relating to the sale and use of tobacco products, including electronic devices. Support efforts to establish smokefree multi-unit housing facilities. Support efforts to establish tobacco free parks, recreation facilities and campuses

## **LUNG RESEARCH**

**Florida - Biomedical Research Program.** Support legislation that would increase and stabilize 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 Research Funding.** Urge 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.

## **ASTHMA INITIATIVES**

**Program Infrastructure: Surveillance, Program and Evaluation.** Support efforts to secure additional funding for the asthma coordinating program. 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.

**Environment.** Support asthma-friendly schools initiatives that promote healthy air 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.

## **STATE TB CONTROL PROGRAMS**

**State TB Budget.** Support state TB programs budget requests to expand services to local county 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.

## **HEALTHY AIR ISSUES**

**Energy Production.** Support policies that advance the use of the cleanest and most fuel-efficient energy resources and technologies. Support strong enforcement of air pollution regulations, and the strengthening of air quality standards and abatement requirements to protect lung health.

**Clean Air Act.** Urge U.S. Congressional delegations to oppose efforts to weaken provisions of the Clean Air Act. Support efforts to strengthen the National Ambient Air Quality Standards set forth in the Clean Air Act.

**Mobile Sources.** Support policies to reduce air pollution from mobile sources through low/zero-emission vehicle technology, low-polluting alternative fuels, pollution control equipment and efficiency measures for existing vehicles. Support reduction of sulfur levels in all gasoline, diesel, aviation, and marine fuels, and reduction of toxic air pollutants from all mobile sources.

**Stationary Sources.** Support policies that reduce or eliminate air pollution emissions from the manufacture, assembly, installation or other processes at major and area stationary sources, including from use of industrial and architectural coatings and solvents. Support strict enforcement of power plant air pollution regulations for the protection of lung health. Urge the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to adopt and enforce stringent emissions control regulations for these sources.

**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 health.

## **PATIENT PROTECTION**

**Funding.** Support efforts to increase or maintain funding for prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cures for all lung diseases including asthma, COPD, lung cancer and tuberculosis;

**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 Medicare, 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.

## **OTHER ISSUES**

**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.** Support federal legislation to improve the tax benefit of vehicle donations to qualifying non-profit organizations. Oppose federal legislation aimed at reducing or phasing out postage rates for nonprofit organizations. 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

### **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](http://www.lungaction.org).**

### **AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTHEAST, INC.**

6852 Belfort Oaks Place; Jacksonville, FL 32216  
Phone: 800-940-2933, 904-743-2933; FAX: 904-743-2916

#### **Florida Advocacy Office**

Brenda Olsen, RN  
539 Silver Slipper Lane, Suite A; Tallahassee,  
Florida 32303-4873  
Phone: 850-241-1002; FAX: 850-422-1894;  
email: bolsen@lungse.org

#### **Georgia/South Carolina Advocacy Office**

June Deen  
2452 Spring Road, Smyrna, GA 30080  
Phone: 770-544-0520; FAX: 770-319-0349;  
email: jdeen@lungse.org

Approved by Board of Directors 6/13/2014  
American Lung Association of the Southeast, Inc.