



Association Of State And Territorial Health Officials  
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November 17, 2008

Corinne G. Husten, *Vice President, Policy Development*  
Partnership for Prevention  
1015 18th Street, NW, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Dr. Husten:

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is pleased to support the overall mission of the Partnership for Prevention's Call for ACTION (Access to Cessation Treatment of Tobacco in Our Nation) to expand access to comprehensive tobacco cessation treatment to 50 percent of smokers by 2015, and 100 percent by 2020.

Tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of death in the United States, accounting for approximately one of every five deaths (438,000) each year. More deaths are caused by tobacco use than by all deaths from HIV/AIDS, illegal drug use, alcohol use, motor vehicle injuries, suicides, and all murders combined. Each year, tobacco use results in \$157 billion in direct and indirect medical costs.

Tobacco use prevention and control programs must be fully integrated and supported within state health agencies. Infrastructure must be built and maintained for these programs, with adequate organizational and financial support, to ensure significant program outcomes. ASTHO members have a strong history of supporting programs that improve tobacco prevention and control efforts in their states. As an organization committed to eliminating the use of tobacco in the United States, ASTHO offers our support to the National Working Group for ACTION and looks forward to partnering with you in the future on this important effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy A. Monroe MD". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

Judy Monroe, MD  
President, ASTHO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul E Jarris, MD, MBA". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Paul Jarris, MD, MBA  
Executive Director, ASTHO