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State of Tobacco Control Report to be Released January 12, 2010
Report to include tobacco control grades for 34 counties in California

Dear Supervisors --

I am pleased to announce that the American Lung Association will release its State of Tobacco Control Report on January 12, 2010. This report assigns grades to the federal government and states based on their tobacco control laws and regulations in effect as of January 2, 2010. The state grades cover policies for Smokefree Air, Cigarette Tax, Tobacco Control Spending and Smoking Cessation.

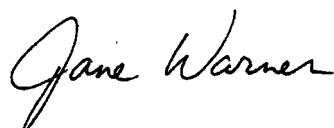
In coordination with the national report, the American Lung Association in California will again be releasing tobacco control report cards for local cities and counties. The grades will be assigned for the following policy categories: Smokefree Outdoor Air; Smokefree Housing; and Reducing Sales of Tobacco Products. These three grades are then averaged for one Overall Tobacco Control Grade.

It is our hope that the local tobacco control grades will increase public knowledge about laws that help protect residents from tobacco's deadly toll, and encourage local leadership to take action where improvement is needed.

As you may know, California has historically earned low grades for Cigarette Tax and Tobacco Control Spending, which is surprising considering the state's leadership role in reducing smoking and the health impacts from tobacco. To address this, the American Lung Association is joining with its tobacco control partners and cancer research doctors to qualify the California Cancer Research Act for the November 2010 General Election Ballot. The initiative would increase the state's cigarette tax by \$1/pack and direct the proceeds to cancer research and to the state's existing tobacco prevention and control programs.

I encourage you to visit the American Lung Association website <http://www.californialung.org> on January 12 to join the movement to qualify and pass the California Cancer Research Act, view the local tobacco control report cards, and learn how to take action against tobacco.

Sincerely,



Jane Warner
President & CEO

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