



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

2012 DEC 14 A 10:36

1531 I Street
Suite 201
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-554-5864 phone
916-442-8585 fax

lung.org/california

State of Tobacco Control Report to be Released January 16, 2013

Report will include tobacco control grades for all 58 counties
in California

Dear Supervisors:

I am pleased to announce that the American Lung Association will release its 11th annual State of Tobacco Control Report on January 16, 2013. This report assigns grades to the federal government and states based on their tobacco control laws and regulations in effect as of January 2, 2012. 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 release tobacco control report cards for all 58 counties in California. 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.

California has long been a leader in the fight against tobacco, but the state's efforts have slipped in recent years. In addition to falling short in funding tobacco prevention programs, California has not increased its cigarette tax since 1999 and now has the 33rd lowest state tax at 87 cents per pack, compared to the state average of \$1.48 per pack. States such as Arizona, Oklahoma and Montana have higher tobacco taxes than we do. This while 34,400 California kids become regular smokers each year and tobacco claims 36,600 lives annually and costs our state \$18 billion dollars in health care costs and productivity losses.

To address these growing concerns, the American Lung Association in California continues to support efforts to raise the tobacco tax in California and restore prevention funding to the California Tobacco Control Program. It is also 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.

I encourage you to visit the American Lung Association in California website www.lungusa.org/california on January 16 to view the state and local tobacco control report cards and learn how to take action in the fight against tobacco.

Sincerely,

Jane Warner
President and Chief Executive Officer