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**January 12, 2010**

**CONTACT:** Jessica Kelly

317-819-1181

[jessica.kelly@lungin.org](mailto:jessica.kelly@lungin.org)



**Indiana Flunks Two Major Categories in American Lung Association's State of Tobacco Control Annual Report Card**

*Indiana Has an Opportunity to Turn Around its Failing Policies by Passing a Smoke Free Air Law for Indiana in 2010*

Indianapolis, Ind.- Indiana flunked two major categories in the *American Lung Association's State of Tobacco Control 2009* report released today. Indiana failed to enact or put into place proven policies for preventing death and disease caused by tobacco use, the number one preventable cause of death in the United States.

"Although we did see improvement in some of the areas graded, the American Lung Association in Indiana is gravely disappointed that our lack of action and budget reductions lead to failing grades in the categories of Smoke Free Air and Tobacco Prevention and Control Spending," said Doug Stafford, Executive Director for the American Lung Association in Indiana. "It's clear that Indiana's work is far from done."

*State of Tobacco Control 2009* grades states and the District of Columbia on smoke free air laws; cigarette tax rates; tobacco prevention and control program funding; and coverage of cessation treatments and services, designed to help smokers quit.

To calculate grades published in *State of Tobacco Control 2009*, the American Lung Association compared policies against targets based on the most current, recognized scientific criteria for effective tobacco control.

The annual report card sounds an urgent alarm for Indiana. In the battle to reduce the devastating toll of tobacco use, the stakes are extremely high.

"It is the American Lung Association in Indiana hopes that this report can serve as a wake-up call for the Indiana General Assembly and Governor Daniels," said Stafford. "The consequences are life or death. This is the year Indiana must pass comprehensive smoke free air laws to protect our Hoosier neighbors and consider increasing program funding for our tobacco prevention and control programs."

Twenty-six states and the District of Columbia have passed comprehensive smoke free workplace laws protecting the public and workers from the dangers of secondhand smoke. The American Lung Association is dedicated to protecting each and every American from secondhand smoke through its Smoke Free Air Challenge, which is a nationwide campaign to eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke in all work and public places.

Six states—Alabama, Kentucky, Missouri, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia—received all “F’s.” No state earned straight “A’s” in *State of Tobacco Control 2009*.

**Editor’s Note:** Complete report including federal and state grades available at: [www.stateoftobaccocontrol.org](http://www.stateoftobaccocontrol.org).

**About the American Lung Association** Now in its second century, the American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease. With your generous support, the American Lung Association is “Fighting for Air” through research, education and advocacy. For more information about the American Lung Association or to support the work it does, call 1-800-LUNG-USA (1-800-586-4872) or visit [www.lungusa.org](http://www.lungusa.org).

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