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April 12, 2013

Ron A. Otten, Ph.D.
Director, Office of Scientific Integrity
Office of the Associate Director for Science
Office of the Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
MS-D74
Atlanta, GA 30333

Re: FR Doc. 2013-03894

Dear Dr. Otten:

The American Lung Association wishes to express its support for the efforts of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the extension of the Asthma Information Reporting System (AIRS) for three more years.

Safeguarding AIRS will enable states to continue collecting standardized and enhanced surveillance information on asthma, not available elsewhere. In addition, AIRS has been instrumental in informing the public of the positive effects of National Asthma Control Program activities in addressing the burden of asthma. The work of AIRS helps achieve the goals established in the American Lung Association [National Asthma Public Policy Agenda](#) that the CDC helped develop in 2009, including the goal of a comprehensive, nationwide asthma surveillance system.

As you know, close to 26 million Americans currently have asthma including 7.1 million children. Asthma is a leading cause of activity limitations and costs our nation \$56 billion in health care costs annually. Initiatives such as the CDC's National Asthma Control Program, and the data that comes from its activities, are essential if we are to have a positive impact on the burden of asthma.

Thank you for your continued leadership.

Sincerely,



Harold Wimmer
National President and CEO