

**Southern Health Association
Resolution
Support of Asthma Prevention**

WHEREAS, asthma is the most common chronic illness in childhood, more than doubling in the last ten years and affecting an estimated 11 to 12 percent of African-American children and 8 to 9 percent of white children in inner cities; the age adjusted death rate from asthma in African-Americans was more that three times the rate in whites in 1998; and poverty and minority status are consistently reported to be related to increased asthma morbidity and mortality among poor and minority populations, including Hispanics; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the cost of asthma was \$14 billion in the United States in 1996, with the majority of this money going towards direct medical cost rather than prevention and research; and

WHEREAS, poverty, substandard housing, air pollution, environmental tobacco smoke, and other degraded social conditions create conditions that can trigger asthma attacks and other respiratory diseases; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Southern Health Association advocates assistance to local public health agencies to prevent asthma in their communities, particularly through consciousness-raising about root causes of asthma, elimination of conditions that exacerbate asthma, improved asthma surveillance, and forming community based coalitions for prevention; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Southern Health Association advocates funding for comprehensive approaches to asthma that include proper diagnosis treatment, and management of asthma, but also address the root causes of asthma in children's environments (e.g. homes, daycares, schools, outdoor) in order to prevent future cases; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Southern Health Association supports policies that address the social conditions that exacerbate asthma, such as poor housing, environmental, tobacco smoke, and air pollution; and

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Affiliate States Governor, the Secretary of the Cabinet of Health Services, the Commissioner for the Department of Public Health and members of the General assembly.

Ted Hanekamp, President
Southern Health Association

May 5, 2006
Date