



July 8, 2011

Steve Davis, M.D.  
Senior Deputy State Health Officer  
Deputy Commissioner  
Department for Public Health  
275 East Main Street  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Dr. Davis:

Kentucky Voices for Health, a broad coalition of over 250 organizations and individuals working to improve health and health care coverage for all Kentuckians, is pleased to offer its support for the Chronic Disease Collaborative Grant application submitted by the Kentucky Department of Public Health. Addressing tobacco use and secondhand smoke, obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, and the effects of high cholesterol are all critical to improving the health of Kentuckians. These problems are even more pronounced among underserved Kentuckians and in rural communities, who are so often faced with additional challenges such as provider shortages and other barriers to care.

It is our hope that this collaborative agreement will strengthen Kentucky's Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Programs. We appreciate the emphasis on fostering collaboration and developing cross-cutting work internally between DPH programs and externally between DPH programs and KY health advocates and community partners.

We look forward to working with the Department of Public Health to develop a "State Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Plan" focusing on the top five leading chronic disease causes of death and disability (e.g. heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes, and arthritis) and their associated risk factors (e.g. physical activity, nutrition, tobacco use and tobacco exposure). We understand that the Department has also included the respiratory diseases of asthma and COPD which are so prevalent in Kentucky and we support this inclusion based on the impact each has on the health of many Kentuckians.

Kentucky Voices for Health has participated in the development of the State Diabetes Plan and has worked closely with the Department's Partnership for a Fit Kentucky, Tobacco Prevention, and Coordinated School Health teams. As an advocacy coalition, we have helped educate communities about the impact of chronic conditions and brought together a diverse group of organizations to work collaboratively to improve the health of all Kentuckians. We have stressed the need for greater consumerism encouraging individuals to more actively participate in their health care. It is important that individuals live healthier lifestyles and prevent chronic conditions that become more costly to treat.

Kentucky Voices for Health seeks to build a healthier Kentucky through focusing on the following priorities:

- Assure that all Kentuckians have access to high quality, affordable health care
- Make prevention a priority for Kentucky's health policies and programs
- Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of health care for Kentuckians
- Improve the health of Kentucky's children

We believe that that the best health care solutions are found when everyone works together to build them. Kentucky families and businesses in every county are facing rising health care costs. Healthy families create healthy economies and a healthy Kentucky is something we all want. The Chronic Disease Collaborative Grant will address these high impact conditions at the state and local levels to ensure a healthier and more sustainable future.

Kentucky Voices for Health welcomes the opportunity to be a collaborator in this cooperative approach to chronic disease prevention for the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Sincerely,



Jodi Mitchell  
Executive Director