

**Open Statement on the National Working Group to
Improve Access to and Coverage for Smoking Cessation**

Tobacco use is the single-most preventable cause of disease and death in the United States. Today, more than 45 million Americans smoke tobacco. Smoking is responsible for over 400,000 deaths each year in America. Of those deaths, 3,000 are non-smokers who die from lung cancer caused by exposure to secondhand smoke. Tobacco use is responsible for \$193 billion annually in direct and indirect health care costs and lost productivity.

Simply put, tobacco is the only legally available product that when used as directed will kill you.

The good news is that 70% of smokers want to quit.

This year, my fellow U.S. Surgeons General and I challenged all Americans to make cancer prevention and survivorship a national priority. As part of our *National Call to Action on Cancer Prevention and Survivorship*, we called for improving access to treatment for tobacco cessation. Partnership for Prevention, leading the National Working Group, responded by catalyzing an innovative approach for tobacco cessation treatment. A Call for ACTION (Access to Cessation Treatment of Tobacco in Our Nation) is a valuable new resource in the fight against the tobacco-related diseases that cost our nation and the world far too many lives and far too much money.

I urge everyone to support access to comprehensive tobacco use treatment services. We can eliminate the tremendous health and economic burdens that tobacco places on our families, our communities, and our nation.

In Good Health,

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For more information, please visit www.NCTAcancer.org or www.canyonranchinstitute.org.