

## Healthy Schools Program Coalition Statements

### YMCA



Together, the nation's 2,594 YMCAs are the largest not-for-profit community service organization in America, working to meet the health and human service needs of 20.1 million men, women and children in 10,000 communities in the United States. YMCAs are at the heart of community life across the country: 42

million families and 72 million households are located within three miles of a YMCA. YMCA Activate America™ is an innovative public health initiative of the YMCA movement that is making healthy living a reality for millions of Americans. This initiative is the YMCA's response to America's growing obesity, chronic disease and health care crisis.

### **Press Statement from the YMCA from Kenneth L. Gladish, President and CEO of the YMCA of the USA—Monday, February 13, 2006**

"We applaud the Alliance for a Healthier Generation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for joining forces to combat obesity in the school setting," said Kenneth L. Gladish, President and CEO of the YMCA of the USA. "This work complements the initiatives of many other organizations that are collaborating partners on this effort, and that's what makes it so important. We at the YMCA know that this problem will only be solved through a multi-sector approach in our schools, worksites and communities. As collaborating partners, we hope to bring the strength of our community work, through YMCA Activate America, together with this initiative to truly make a significant impact on all Americans."



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### Parents' Action for Children



Parents' Action for Children, founded by actor/director Rob Reiner, is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that brings parents together as a powerful voice on issues that matter most to children and families. We unite parents to improve policies on child health (such as childhood obesity prevention and the lack of health insurance for all children), as well as on education and other family issues. Our *Stir It Up* campaign is a national movement of parents working to ensure all children eat nutritious food and get the physical activity they need to grow up healthy. To learn more visit [www.parentsaction.org](http://www.parentsaction.org).

### Press statement from Norman Rosenberg, President and CEO of Parents' Action for Children—Monday, February 13, 2006

Parents trying to raise healthy children today are struggling against our junk food, couch potato culture. This atmosphere has not only contributed to a childhood obesity crisis of startling proportions, but also is affecting the health and wellbeing of all children – regardless of whether they are overweight.

As parents, we know that there is plenty we can do at home to prevent childhood obesity: We can be positive role models, provide healthy food for our families, and incorporate fitness into our lifestyles. But this isn't just about what we do at home. A complex mix of economic, social and cultural factors contribute to the childhood obesity problem in this country. Parents need the support of our schools and communities, as well as our policymakers, to reverse this national trend.

How do we get the support that we need? Parents need to stay informed, and speak up about their concerns. We know what's best for our children, so our voices are desperately needed in the movement to improve nutrition and increase opportunities for physical activity in schools.

We at Parents' Action for Children appreciate the attention that the Alliance for a Healthier Generation has brought to this issue, and agree that parents, schools and other stakeholders must work together to bring about change. We look forward to working with the Alliance to make a difference for all children.



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Trust for America's Health



[www.healthyamericans.org](http://www.healthyamericans.org)

Trust for America's Health is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to saving lives by protecting the health of every community and working to make disease prevention a national priority.

**Press statement from Jeff Levi, PhD, Senior Policy Advisor of Trust for America's Health—  
Monday, February 13, 2006**

"The 'Healthy Schools' initiative is an important step in battling the crisis of poor nutrition and physical inactivity in the U.S. Obesity is a complex and multifaceted problem. By starting in schools, this initiative focuses on concrete, practical ways to help turn the rising tide of obesity rates in kids. By addressing sidewalks to school lunches, this could make the difference in helping thousands of kids avoid facing a future of obesity-related diseases ranging from diabetes to heart disease," said Jeff Levi, PhD, Senior Policy Advisor of Trust for America's Health.

### **National Association for Sport and Physical Activity (NASPE)**



The preeminent national authority on physical education and a recognized leader in sport and youth physical activity, the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) is a non-profit professional membership association that sets the standard for practice in physical education and sport. NASPE's 17,000 members include: K-12 physical education teachers, coaches, athletic directors, athletic trainers, sport management professionals, researchers, and college/university faculty who prepare physical activity professionals. NASPE seeks to enhance knowledge, improve professional practice, and increase support for high quality physical education, sport and youth physical activity programs through research, development of standards, and dissemination of information. It is the largest of the five national associations that make Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance (AAHPERD). To assess whether your child is receiving a quality physical education program, visit [www.naspeinfo.org/observePE](http://www.naspeinfo.org/observePE) for an observation assessment tool.

### **National Association for Sport and Physical Education Pledges its Support to the Alliance for a Healthier Generation**

RESTON, VA, February 13, 2006 – The National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) commends the efforts of the Alliance for a Healthier Generation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to help stamp out the rising tide of childhood obesity through the Healthy Schools Program. By working together NASPE believes we can develop strategies, policies and quality programs to improve the health of our children. NASPE looks forward to working with the Alliance as a resource about school physical education and physical activity programs.

According to NASPE President Thomas J. Templin, Ph.D., of Purdue University, "There is no place in this country for even one poor physical education program. NASPE believes every student in our nation's schools from kindergarten through grade as should have the opportunity to participate in a quality school physical education program. That means allocating 150 minutes for elementary schools and 225 minutes for middle and high school schools of instructional time each week; certified physical education teachers; and the appropriate facilities and equipment.

"Children need to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence necessary to lead healthy, active and productive lives," added Dr. Templin. "To do that, all programs must facilitate achievement of the National Standards for Physical Education."



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### The National Black Caucus of State Legislators



Founded in 1977, the National Black Caucus of State Legislators is a nonpartisan Section 501(c)(3) organization with more than six hundred members in 44 states, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands. For more information, please visit our Web site at <http://www.nbcsl.com>.

### Press statement from Mississippi State Representative Mary H. Coleman, President of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators—Monday, February 13, 2006

“We walk less, travel farther and eat more! Healthy lifestyle habits today are the first line of defense to combating disease tomorrow. In order to secure a bright prosperous future for our children we must ensure that they develop healthy lifestyles. Therefore, NBCSL is pleased to offer our support and congratulations to the William Jefferson Clinton Foundation, American Heart Association and your Alliance for A Healthier Generation on your grant award from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Together we can create a healthier generation of Americans!”



### **The Centers for Disease Control Division of Adolescent and School Health**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is one of the 13 major operating components of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), which is the principal agency in the United States government for protecting the health and safety of all Americans and for providing essential human services, especially for those people who are least able to help themselves. Since it was founded in 1946 to help control malaria, CDC has remained at the forefront of public health efforts to prevent and control infectious and chronic diseases, injuries, workplace hazards, disabilities, and environmental health threats. Today, CDC is globally recognized for conducting research and investigations and for its action oriented approach. CDC applies research and findings to improve people's daily lives and responds to health emergencies—something that distinguishes CDC from its peer agencies.

### **Press statement from Howell Wechsler, EdD, MPH, Director, CDC Division of Adolescent and School Health —Monday, February 13, 2006**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention applauds the commitment and work of the Alliance for a Healthier Generation to build school environments that promote the health of our children and adolescents. With more than 95 percent of our young people enrolled in schools, schools are an ideal setting for teaching young people how to adopt and maintain healthy lifestyles. In particular, research has shown that well-designed and well-implemented school programs can effectively promote physical activity and healthy eating -- the two behaviors that are key to reversing our modern epidemic of childhood and adult obesity. In addition, emerging evidence shows the connections between physical activity, good nutrition, physical education and nutrition programs, and academic achievement. In short, these programs are good for our kids' bodies and minds.



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### The National Association of Health Education Centers



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NAHEC is a network of nonprofit health education centers (HECs) and of other organizations that support children's health education and provide products and services to HECs. NAHEC member centers reached over 3 million children, teachers, and parents in 2005. HECs use life-size exhibits, advanced audio-visual technology, and specialized, interactive instructional techniques not generally found in conventional classrooms. The curriculum is designed to support school-mandated areas of study. With programs like "Whodunit? - A Forensic Science Camp", Hummers outfitted with removable organs, and playgrounds modeled after anatomy parts, you'll see why former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. C. Everett Koop proclaimed that health education centers "put pizzazz in prevention." For more information about NAHEC, please visit [nahec.org](http://www.nahec.org) <http://www.nahec.org/>.

### Press statement from the National Association of Health Education Centers —Monday, February 13, 2006

NAHEC applauds the American Heart Association and the Clinton Foundation on their launch of the "Alliance for a Healthier Generation." Clearly, schools can play a critical role in assuring healthier generations to come by providing a healthy environment for students, and offering opportunities for students to learn how to make healthy lifestyle choices. NAHEC member organizations have a great history of providing engaging and effective health education programs to schools and school districts around the country. NAHEC is proud to build on this tradition by partnering with the Alliance for a Healthier Generation to support our nation's schools and the communities they serve in the fight against childhood obesity and the effort to raise a healthier generation.



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## National Association of State Boards of Education



NASBE represents America's state and territorial boards of education. Our principal objectives are to strengthen state leadership in education policymaking; advocate equality of access to educational opportunity; promote excellence in the education of all students; and assure responsible lay governance of education.

### **Press statement from the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE)— Monday, February 13, 2006**

The National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) applauds the establishment of the Alliance for a Healthier Generation by the William J. Clinton Foundation and the American Heart Association. Our members look forward to partnering with the Alliance on addressing the critical problem of youth obesity.



## National Urban League



Established in 1910, The Urban League is the nation's oldest and largest community-based movement devoted to empowering African Americans to enter the economic and social mainstream. Today, the National Urban League,

headquartered in New York City, spearheads the non-partisan efforts of its local affiliates. There are over 100 local affiliates of the National Urban League located in 35 states and the District of Columbia providing direct services to more than 2 million people nationwide through programs, advocacy and research.

### **The National Urban League Expresses Support for the Alliance for a Healthier Generation— Monday, February 13, 2006**

The National Urban League is pleased to support the work of the Alliance for a Healthier Generation as part of our ongoing effort to address the problem of childhood obesity among African American children.

The Alliance's goal of reducing childhood obesity advances the National Urban League's mission of improving the economic well-being, health and quality of life for African Americans. By focusing on the issues that contribute to childhood obesity and influence children's lifestyles, the Alliance is working to create long-term solutions that inspire all young people to develop life-long healthy habits. Because African American children suffer childhood obesity at a substantially higher rate than other children, the Alliance's programmatic activity, research and advocacy will have a significant and positive impact on the lives of African American children and their families.

The National Urban League thanks former President Bill Clinton for his commitment and leadership on this issue and looks forward to working with the Clinton Foundation, the American Heart Association and the Alliance for a Healthier Generation on improving the health and well-being of our children.



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### National Governors Association



NGA, founded in 1908, is the instrument through which the nation's governors collectively influence the development and implementation of national policy and apply creative leadership to state issues. Its members are the governors of the 50 states, three territories and two commonwealths. The NGA Center for Best Practices helps governors and their policy advisors develop and implement innovative solutions to governance and policy challenges facing them

in their states. The Center provides tailored technical assistance, tracks and evaluates state innovations and best practices and helps governors and their staff develop cutting-edge solutions to stay ahead of problems. For more information, please visit [www.nga.org](http://www.nga.org).

### **NGA Welcomes Education Efforts of Alliance for a Healthier Generation—Monday February 13, 2006**

WASHINGTON— The National Governors Association (NGA) today welcomed the efforts of the Alliance for a Healthier Generation to improve the health of American students.

The Alliance will partner with educators and other organizations to create a healthier environment within schools so that young people can learn the importance of adopting healthy lifestyles.

Like Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee's *Healthy America* Initiative, the Alliance is an effort that recognizes the importance of promoting the well-being of our youngest citizens. The health care partnership between Governor Huckabee, NGA's 2005-2006 chairman, and former president Bill Clinton, who is playing a lead role in the Alliance through his foundation, serves as a reminder that a healthier America is a bipartisan priority.

"The Alliance for a Healthier Generation is to be commended for their efforts to involve schools in encouraging children to adopt healthier lifestyles," said NGA Executive Director Ray Scheppach. "With more than 54 million students attending U.S. schools on any given day, these institutions are uniquely positioned to be agents for positive change."

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