

*Tonello - Assist
progr*

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health
Office of Public Health and Science
Department of Health and Human Services

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FAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

Date: 2-2-98

Please Deliver on Receipt!

To: Tom FREEDMAN

Fax: 456-7431

Re: (FYI) see ATTACHED

From: Jim O'Hara

YOU SHOULD RECEIVE 3 PAGE(S), INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET.
IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL PAGES, PLEASE CALL 202.690.7694.

Have a Healthy, Active Day!



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

JAN 30 1998

Dear State Tobacco Control Leader:

The gains we have made in tobacco prevention have been among the most important public health achievements during my tenure as Secretary. As a Nation we have redefined the role of tobacco use in our society and focused our efforts to prevent our youth from becoming addicted to tobacco products.

There are many people who deserve the credit for this achievement, but you have been the backbone of our tobacco control movement. Through your devotion and energy, you have mobilized citizens and communities to care about and to take action on the leading preventable cause of death and disease in America. I deeply appreciate all you have done and pledge my Department's full support to help you continue to make a difference.

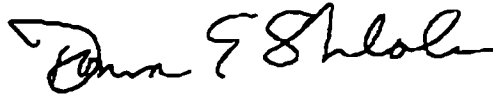
To that end, I am pleased to announce an intensified commitment to state-based programs to prevent and reduce tobacco use. We are proposing in the President's FY 1999 budget to expand our support for state and community programs from \$34 million in FY 1998 to \$51 million in FY 1999 -- a full 50-percent increase. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will fund all states and the District of Columbia to implement innovative tobacco prevention programs as a core component of public health practice. Federal support for state tobacco prevention programs will be maintained or expanded in all 50 states. This is a model of government working at its best: We are moving the proven research findings generated from the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) successful ASSIST program into widespread public health practice.

State-based programs are a critical part of the Administration's overall national effort to prevent tobacco use among our youth. Local input allows programs to be tailored to local needs and benefit from local innovation. Multiple agencies at HHS have a part to play in this effort. CDC, the Food and Drug Administration, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and several of the Institutes at the National Institutes of Health, will continue to work together to ensure that our strategies remain state-of-the-art and responsive to changes in our dynamic environment. The NCI, in particular, will continue to support a broad range of research that will help support these community and state tobacco control programs.

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In the coming months, members of my Department will be in communication with you to ensure successful planning for this proposed program expansion in FY 1999. Thank you again for your commitment to the public's health and for your leadership in helping usher in this historic era. I look forward to our continued productive partnership as we work together to ensure a health future for all Americans, most especially our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donna E. Shalala". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Donna" and last name "Shalala" clearly distinguishable.

Donna E. Shalala