



September, 2002

Dear Colleague:

The National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity (NCPA) would like to solicit your assistance in advancing recommendations that promote better health for young people through physical activity and sports. Since the Fall of 2000, the NCPA Physical Activity for Youth (PAY) Steering Committee has been developing comprehensive recommendations to implement the *President's Report on Promoting Better Health for Young People through Physical Activity and Sports* issued jointly by the Secretary for Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Education. This report and the recommendations launched earlier this month at an NCPA meeting with over fifty national youth serving organizations in attendance was received with overwhelming endorsement and represents a critical step toward initiating an unprecedented collaboration among local, state, and national organizations to increase physical activity participation levels among America's youth each and every day.

The enclosed attachment outlines the key recommendations for policy development to achieve our goal of improved health for all young people. The **Physical Activity for Youth Policy Initiative** recommendations are broken into four categories that focus on improving the comprehensive access and opportunity for all young people to be more physically active, including:

Afterschool Programs
Community Design

Community Programs
School Programs

There is important policy work to be accomplished at the local, state, and national level and the accelerated pace of obesity and chronic disease among young people demands our concerted focus and collaborative effort to achieve this goal. The National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity seeks your organizational support for these comprehensive recommendations by formally signing on to support them.

Specifically, we are asking all national organizations to embrace the general principles of the entire document and encourage their regional, state, and local affiliates to also support the initiative. We recognize that your organization may be focused on only a portion of the entire document, but it is our belief that if we share a common voice around the comprehensive recommendations then our ability to influence policy-makers to address this as a comprehensive issue will be achieved. We then encourage you to contribute with follow-up efforts in your area(s) of specific interest and expertise. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of our children.

Sign on to this important effort today by drafting a letter of support and forwarding it to the NCPPA office. Our goal is to have 500 organizations sign on to the principles of the **Physical Activity for Youth Policy Initiative** by December 31, 2002. Please contact us at (202) 454-7522 or via email at ksilberman@ncppa.org to sign on your organization. If you need more information on our progress and future efforts visit us at www.ncppa.org.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Kathy J. Spangler, CPRP
NCPPA President