

TALKING POINTS FOR INCREASING FEDERAL FUNDING FOR ASTHMA RESEARCH

- The number of people with asthma has doubled since 1985. According to the Centers for Disease Control, in 2005 more than 30 million Americans were diagnosed with asthma, including more than 9 million children.
- There is significant disparity in how asthma affects different populations. Asthma rates are highest among Puerto Rican populations.
- Emergency Room visit rates are higher for African-Americans seeking asthma treatment than they are for Caucasians.
- Hospitalization rates for African-Americans with asthma are higher than they are for Caucasians.
- Mortality from asthma is higher among African-Americans and women.
- The alarming rise in the prevalence of asthma, its adverse effects on school attendance and work productivity, and its costs for hospitalizations and Emergency Room visits, argue for a more vigorous federal leadership role.
- The goals of the government and its partners in the nonprofit and private sectors should include reducing the number and severity of asthma attacks, its financial burden, and the health disparities associated with asthma.
- The Family Asthma Act (S. 2175, HR. 3904) would authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to eligible entities to conduct pilot projects to prevent and control asthma, reduce asthma attacks, and improve self-management for individuals and families.

Request for Action: Become a cosponsor of The Family Asthma Act (S. 2175, HR. 3904).