



PO Box 11675 - Murfreesboro, TN 37129 -  
[www.rhat.org](http://www.rhat.org)

March 24, 2011

Kathy Wood-Dobbins  
Chief Executive Officer  
Tennessee Primary Care Association  
416 Wilson Pike Circle  
Brentwood, TN 37027

Dear Kathy:

The Rural Health Association of Tennessee (RHAT) supports the efforts of the Tennessee Primary Care Association (TPCA) to promote a healthier Tennessee through its application for grant funding to facilitate activities of the Statewide Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Program Advocacy Initiative.

TPCA has extensive experience in advocacy activities and proven leadership abilities in building advocacy-focused partnerships and coalitions. Collaborations with local, state, and national organizations have developed partnerships that positively impact health centers and promote the mission of CHCs. In the past 35 years, TPCA has created working partnerships with a wide variety of regional and national health care oriented organizations. TPCA's strength lies in its ability to convene partners and bring people together on common issues.

Rural Health Association supports initiatives which involve implementation of effective programs and advocacy for policies to reduce the burden of tobacco use in Tennessee, especially in rural areas.

TPCA has significant influence at the state-level and regularly works on statewide health care issues. TPCA has worked in partnership with like-minded advocacy organizations, such as RHAT, to educate CHCs and policy makers on the importance of smoke-free workplaces in the state. These partnerships have strengthened TPCA's ability to carry out the proposed objectives by developing and disseminating resources and training and education materials to community health centers, health department staff, community leaders, and the general public.

We are very pleased to support the Tennessee Primary Care Association's efforts to reduce tobacco use in Tennessee through this grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Moats" followed by a small flourish.

Bill Moats, President  
Rural Health Association of Tennessee