**Highlighting Tobacco‘s Impact on the LGBTQ Community
for National Coming Out Day**

Dear Editor,

This Sunday is National Coming Out Day, and the (**Coalition/Network Name)** joins many in celebrating this day of empowerment, awareness and acceptance for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) community.

LGBTQ individuals face various challenges specific to their identity, but one that’s often overlooked is tobacco addiction.

LGBTQ communities are among the populations most severely impacted by tobacco use:
**(Insert usage statistic(s) from these fact sheets)** <http://www.lgbttobacco.org/files/LGBT%20People%20and%20Smoking_Coalition%20for%20LGBT%20health.pdf> or <http://lgbttobacco.org/files/legacy%20lgbt%20factsheet.pdf>.

Some reasons for high use rates include **(List one or two examples from the linked fact sheets under Feel free to pull from bullets related to the tobacco industry if you’d like to elaborate on that)**.

Beyond the community’s high use rate, the American Cancer Society also estimates that tobacco-related diseases kill over 30,000 LGBTQ people annually.

**(Optional Paragraph – if applicable, describe an active partnership or coalition/network activity focused on LGBTQ tobacco use. If not applicable, skip to next paragraph)**

To address this disparity, it’s essential to educate the LGBTQ community and their allies, as well as policy makers and health professionals about the dangers of tobacco and nicotine products and the toll they take on LGBTQ individuals.

All individuals who are ready to quit smoking can get free help by calling 1-800-QUIT NOW. Also, feel free to contact the **(COALITION/NETWORK)** if you’re interested in addressing tobacco issues in **(COUNTY/COMMUNITY)**. You can find us at **(URL, ETC.)**

Sincerely,

**NAME**