LGBT Pride Month LTE Template for June 2017

Drafted May 12, 2017

**Tobacco is still a problem for the LGBT community**

Dear Editor,

START YOUR LETTER BY SHARING THAT JUNE IS LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER (LGBT) PRIDE MONTH, AN ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF LGBT EQUALITY. TALK ABOUT HOW IT’S A MONTH TO CELEBRATE THE ADVANCES MADE FOR LGBT RIGHTS AND EQUALITY, BUT ALSO TO LOOK AT WHAT CAN STILL BE DONE TO ELIMINATE LGBT DISCRIMINATION AND DISPARITIES.

CONTINUE BY DISCUSSING HOW LGBT HEALTH IS ONE AREA THAT’S OFTEN OVERLOOKED, ESPECIALLY IN RELATION TO TOBACCO USE. TALK ABOUT HOW LGBT INDIVIDUALS FACE ADVERSITY FROM SOCIAL STIGMA AND EXCLUSION, WHICH LEADS TO INCREASED LIKELIHOOD OF RISKY BEHAVIORS, LIKE TOBACCO USE.

NEXT, TRANSITION TO TALKING ABOUT WHAT THE PROBLEM LOOKS LIKE IN WISCONSIN. CONTINUE BY SHARING THAT THE 2014/2015 SMOKING RATE FOR LESBIAN, GAY, AND BISEXUAL INDIVIDUALS IN WISCONSIN WAS 27%, COMPARED TO THE OVERALL 2015 STATE RATE OF 17%.

NOW TALK ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF SHOWING SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNITY AND SHARE A FEW WAYS THAT PEOPLE CAN HELP FROM THE [LGBTQ HEALTH EQUITY TOOLKIT](http://tobwis.org/health-equity/lgbtq). ALSO INCLUDE A WAY TO CONTACT YOUR COALITION OR NETWORK (URL, SOCIAL MEDIA, ETC.).

FINISH BY SHARING THAT THE WISCONSIN TOBACCO QUIT LINE PROVIDES FREE QUIT TOBACCO ASSISTANCE, REGARDLESS OF ORIENTATION AND IDENTIFICATION. ENCOURAGE TOBACCO USERS TO CALL 1-800-QUIT NOW TODAY.

SINCERELY,

NAME