

Testimony by Robert Vinetz, MD, FAAP (rvinetz@queenscare.org)

On Behalf of the Asthma Coalition of Los Angeles County

before the

California Air Resources Board Hearing on Advanced Clean Cars Regulations

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Good morning. My name is Robert Vinetz. I am a pediatrician and testifying today on behalf of the Asthma Coalition of Los Angeles County, of which I am the Co-chair. The Coalition has over 60 organizational members, representing interests in primary healthcare, public health, university-based research, housing and environmental advocacy and others.

I would like to offer you a parable: One day some villagers were working in the fields by a river. Suddenly someone noticed a baby floating downstream. A woman dove in grabbed the baby, held it high, swam to shore and lovingly cared for it. Soon more babies were seen floating downstream, and the villagers rescued them too. But before long there was a steady stream of babies floating down the river. Then the whole village was frantically trying to rescue one baby after another. Suddenly one villager broke away from the group and raced on foot upstream. "Where are you going?" screamed the group. "We've got to find out how all those babies are getting into the river in the first place...and stop it."

This parable illustrates the living expression of unspoken values: that "no man, no woman, no child is an island...no one stands alone. That we are a society that cares for the vulnerable ...because all of us at some point in our lives are vulnerable. That we are a state and nation that values the well-being of our fellow human beings and all that share this planet earth and the environment we inherit and create. The parable also presents a dilemma of choice. Do we direct our resources to rescuing victims or to preventing harm in the first place? The answer, I believe, is *both*.

My job and that of my colleagues is far downstream, treating asthma, COPD, prematurity, and so many other diseases caused by poisoned air... and to alert our village to the harm we see.

Some of the downstream health impacts of the toxic brew of motor vehicle air pollution (read "poisoning") include:

- Premature births and deaths, including fetal and infant deaths due to maternal exposure to air pollutants
- Sudden infant death syndrome
- Reduced fetal and child growth
- Permanent damage to the still-developing lungs and lung function of children
- Development of asthma, other lung diseases and certain allergic conditions
- Increased asthma attacks
- Increased emergency room visits and hospital admissions
- More respiratory infections, including influenza
- Brain and neurodevelopmental impairment in children
- Increased risk of childhood and adult cancers and heart disease
- Great health care economic costs

Your job is primary prevention...far upstream. With your Advanced Clean Car Standards California can reduce all major air pollution-related health impacts by up to 70% and avoid \$7 to \$8 billion in healthcare, environmental and societal damages. With these standards you are offering a beautiful, crucial, harm-preventing and life-saving gift to us all. Public health at its best. We urge to run for it! And we thank you!