



## STATE OF WASHINGTON

March 18, 2014

Dear Store Owner/Manager:

The Washington State Department of Health and the Department of Social and Health Services, in partnership with the Washington State Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking (RUaD), is conducting a Community Assessment of Neighborhood Stores (CANS). The purpose of this survey is to learn about current practices for placing tobacco, alcohol, and fresh fruits/vegetables in stores, and how these products are advertised.

**Neighborhood stores can play an important role in providing healthier choices for community members. What's in it for you? A healthy, thriving community is good for business.**

We have partnered with youth groups in your area to conduct the survey so that youth can be part of the process to make their community healthier. We will use the data from this CANS survey to plan future outreach efforts.

Please consider the following actions to improve the health of people in your neighborhood:

- Always check identification before selling tobacco and alcohol to ensure that your customers are of legal age to purchase.
- Place tobacco products behind the counter and out of sight of children to avoid theft.
- Place alcohol away from the entrances and exits of the store so it is not easily stolen.
- Place fresh fruit, vegetables, and other healthy snacks near the front of the store where they are easily seen and purchased.
- Limit or eliminate advertising of tobacco and alcohol, both inside and on the outside of your store.

We thank you in advance for your partnership in helping to always make the healthy choice the easy choice. For more information about the CANS, be sure to visit the Let's Draw the Line page on [www.StartTalkingNow.org](http://www.StartTalkingNow.org). If you have questions about this survey please contact Paul Davis at the Department of Health at [paul.davis@doh.wa.gov](mailto:paul.davis@doh.wa.gov) or 360-236-3642.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Michael Langer in black ink.

Michael Langer, Chief  
Office of Behavioral Health and Prevention  
Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery  
Department of Social and Health Services

Handwritten signature of Janna Bardi in black ink.

Janna Bardi, MPH  
Director, Office of Healthy Communities  
Division of Prevention & Community Health  
Washington State Department of Health

