

**Res. 99-14**

**RESOLUTION ON THE HEALTH ALERT NETWORK**

**WHEREAS**, local public health agencies are the nation's first line of defense against epidemics of infectious and chronic disease, environmental hazards and the public health consequences of natural disasters and episodes of biological terrorism; and

**WHEREAS**, modern information and communications technology is essential to enable local public health departments to meet the increasingly complex demands of local public health practice; and

**WHEREAS**, a public health workforce fully trained in the use of contemporary technology and the best scientific approaches to public health practice is necessary to maintaining effective community health protection and promotion; and

**WHEREAS**, local public health departments are most competent to determine what resources are necessary at the local level to enable effective partnership among local, state and federal public health agencies in addressing public health threats; and

**WHEREAS**, The Health Alert Network is one of five components of CDC's Program for Emergency Preparedness and Response for Bioterrorism, and is intended to strengthen local and state public health infrastructure through increased connection to Internet, improved workforce skills, and measurement of organizational performance;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) fully supports increased funding to sustain the growth and development of the Health Alert Network program funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NACCHO supports full involvement of local public health departments as a partner with state health departments and CDC in planning the best and highest-priority uses for Health Alert Network funds at the local level.

*Adopted by NACCHO Board of Directors  
November 7, 1999*