**LUNG CANCER IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF CANCER DEATHS AMONG AFRICAN AMERICANS**

**AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN HAVE A 33% HIGHER INCIDENCE RATE AND A 28% HIGHER MORTALITY RATE OF LUNG CANCER THAN WHITE MEN**

**SURVIVAL RATES FOR THE THREE NEXT BIGGEST CANCERS HAVE INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY; THE RATE FOR LUNG CANCER HAS NOT**

**BECAUSE SO FEW CASES ARE DIAGNOSED AT EARLY STAGE WHEN CANCER IS MOST CURABLE**

**INCIDENCE AND MORTALITY RATES 2005-2009 PER 100,000 OF POPULATION**

**FIVE YEAR RELATIVE SURVIVAL RATES 2002-2008**

**LOCALIZED:** Cancer confined to the primary site  
**REGIONAL:** Cancer has spread to regional lymph nodes  
**DISTANT:** Cancer has metastasized to other sites
WHY IS LUNG CANCER RESEARCH UNDERFUNDED WHEN SO MANY PEOPLE ARE DYING AND SO MANY QUESTIONS NEED TO BE ANSWERED?

- Why does lung cancer have such a profoundly higher impact on African American men?
- Is there an increased sensitivity to tobacco smoke?
- What other environmental triggers in inner cities or on the job are involved?
- How is risk related to military service and exposure to asbestos, Agent Orange, depleted uranium, battlefield toxins and other carcinogens?
- How do barriers to early detection and care exacerbate the situation?
- What about socio-economic factors, diet and medical histories?

RESOLUTION:

AS THE PAST FORTY YEARS OF SO LITTLE PROGRESS HAVE SHOWN, LUNG CANCER MORTALITY WILL NOT BE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED UNTIL:

- The public is made aware of the statistics
- Lung cancer is viewed with greater compassion and support
- Lung cancer mortality reduction is made a public health priority
- A comprehensive, multi-agency plan of action is developed
- Lung cancer prevention, early detection and treatment are coordinated.
- Congress provides adequate funding and holds the agencies responsible