



## MEDIA ADVISORY

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 24, 2016

#### Contacts:

Alison Lawrence Jones  
Mothers & Others for Clean Air  
American Lung Association of the SE  
alison.lawrencejones@lungse.org  
910-922-0295

Laura Wenzel  
Medical Advocates for Healthy Air  
laura@cleanaircarolina.org  
919-428-6296

Veronica Shingleton  
Moms Clean Air Force NC  
vshingleton@moms-clean-air-force.org  
919-475-7858

Terry Lansdell  
Clean Air Carolina  
Terry@cleanaircarolina.org  
980-213-6446

## ***New Healthy Air Alliance of NC Works to Protect Communities***

*Public Health Groups Team Up To Fight Air Pollution & Protect Public Health*

**WHAT:** Healthy Air Alliance of North Carolina (HAANC) is a new, collaborative effort by Moms Clean Air Force NC, Mothers & Others for Clean Air, Medical Advocates for Healthy Air, and Clean Air Carolina. On Monday, the Alliance will launch the first presentations in its new educational training series geared towards educating the public, medical professionals, and decision makers on the public health impacts of air pollution. **The purpose of this alliance is to build a statewide network to elevate the voices of families dealing with the daily health impacts of air pollution and of the public health professionals who work with them to advocate for better air quality and healthier communities in North Carolina.** We invite you to be a part of this statewide press briefing to announce HAANC. The briefing will provide an overview of how air pollution impacts public health, particularly children, HAANC's policy focus for 2016, and upcoming public engagement events.

**WHY:** Air pollution is responsible for a multitude of health effects on everyone but disproportionately impacts children and vulnerable communities. Clean air is essential to health, and the members of the HAANC have teamed up to draw attention to this critical public health issue. Over the last few years,

North Carolinians have seen rollbacks of many important air quality protections as well as threats to our state's transition to clean renewable energy. Three of the largest metropolitan areas in North Carolina received failing grades for ozone pollution in the American Lung Association's 2015 State of the Air Report. New research is helping us better understand the broad range of health impacts of outdoor air pollution. **The Alliance will be a research and communications hub for citizens, media, medical professionals, and policy makers.** It will also advocate for strong public policies that reduce air pollution to protect public health, such as protecting North Carolina's Clean Smokestacks Act and the Clean Air Act, and promoting Clean Renewable Energy development.

**WHERE:** Online Go-To Meeting. To log on:

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**WHEN:** 9:00am Monday February 29, 2016

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