



## **Legislative Priorities for 2011-2012**

**Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force**

### **In support of Stroke Advisory Council Recommendations:**

Seek funding for the continuation of both the ongoing public education on stroke recognition and the need for rapid response, and for operation of the Stroke Advisory Council to continue its work in implementing a stroke system of care plan. Immediate action steps include:

- ⊙ Convening an ad hoc panel of experts to decide on standards to be met for certifying Stroke Capable Hospitals in NC. This will be done in partnership with the North Carolina Hospital Association (NCHA), Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS), and the American Heart Association / American Stroke Association (AHA/ASA); and then
- ⊙ Introducing recommended standards at the proposed Governor's Stroke Summit in May 2011 in order for representatives of all hospitals in NC to consider and debate.

### **Hypertension Prevention and Control:**

The JWTF seeks the support of the Governor to address a major risk factor for hypertension: excessive dietary sodium intake. Begin with state government by modifying state vending and procurement policies at public facilities.

### **NC Cigarette Tax Increase**

Support an increase in NC's cigarette excise tax by at least \$1.00 per pack and support an excise tax increase on other tobacco (non-cigarette) products to a tax rate equivalent with that of cigarettes.