

## ASTHO'S PROCLAMATION "NATIONAL DAY OF RACIAL HEALING"

**WHEREAS**, we have all witnessed racial divisiveness rising in America's urban, rural, suburban, and tribal communities today that threatens the very core of this great country's unified front; and

**WHEREAS**, just like those who came before us, it is our duty to protect the children of this country and maintain communities in which they may all be given the opportunity to succeed; and

**WHEREAS**, we understand and recognize that there is a racial divide in our country and we must all work earnestly to heal the wounds created by racial, ethnic and religious bias and build an equitable and just society so that all children can thrive; and

**WHEREAS**, children have the right to be provided every opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive in nurturing environments that don't violate their safety, dignity, and humanity; and

**WHEREAS**, every single person has the capability to make a simple change within him or herself that can have a profound effect on an entire society; and

**WHEREAS**, if we all dedicate ourselves to the principles of truth, racial healing and transformation, we can all bring about the necessary changes in thinking and behavior that will propel this great country forward as a unified force where racial biases will become a thing of the past; and

**WHEREAS**, racial healing is a vital and crucial commitment to the education, social, mental and over all well-being of all our children; and

**WHEREAS**, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, in conjunction with others throughout the United States of America, acknowledges the Tuesday following Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as the "National Day of Racial Healing," and urges all staff to promote racial healing and transformation in the ways that are best suited for them individually, as a means to working together to ensure the best quality of life for every child.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Michael Fraser, Chief Executive Officer, do hereby proclaim that this organization honors and recognizes the Tuesday following Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as the "National Day of Racial Healing" and support staff involvement in activities to help heal the racial divides that existing in our organization, our communities, the nation, and the world.