

## ARIZONA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

OSTEOPOROSIS PREVENTION

WHEREAS, osteoporosis is a disease characterized by low bone mass and structural deterioration of bone tissue which affects women, men and children of all races and ethnicities, and

WHEREAS, three out of four U.S. women aged 65 years and older have osteoporosis or low bone mass, and in 2002, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommended routine osteoporosis screening for all women in this age group, YET, fewer than 1 in 10 received a Medicare-reimbursed bone density test in 2001, and

WHEREAS, over 390,000 Arizona residents were estimated to have osteoporosis or low bone mass in 2002, and prevalence is expected to grow to over 715,000 by 2015, and

WHEREAS, height loss and back pain may be caused by spine fractures, and a postmenopausal woman with a spine fracture has a 1 in 5 chance of another spine fracture within a year, and

WHEREAS, osteoporosis was estimated to cause 18,994 fractures in Arizona in 2000, at a cost of over \$236 million, and

WHEREAS, the number of osteoporotic fractures is projected to grow to over 35,522 in 2025, at a cost of over \$438 million, and

WHEREAS, there are current efforts in Arizona to educate women and health professionals that osteoporosis is a preventable and treatable disease, and fast intervention is needed to prevent fractures in postmenopausal women with osteoporosis,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE Arizona Public Health Association supports local and state efforts to raise awareness of osteoporosis prevention activities and help residents to maximize osteoporosis management by staying active, knowing their risk, and understanding treatment options that help prevent fractures.

Presented at the Annual Meeting, September 25, 2003

Action: *Passed 9/2003*

*Erbi Egan, Executive Director*  
*AzPHA*