

January 18, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan, and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

As organizations committed to improving the public's health, we write to express our serious concern about the most recent continuing resolution, which cut \$750 million from the Prevention and Public Health Fund (Prevention Fund) and will put Americans at greater risk for illnesses, injuries and preventable deaths. This represents a 17 percent cut to the Prevention Fund over several years, including an 11 percent cut in fiscal year (FY) 2019. We ask you to reject any additional cuts to the Prevention Fund and restore this lost funding to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) by directing new resources made available by a broader budget agreement to raise the spending caps, or from savings due to the long-term reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), to the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related agencies (LHHS) 302(b) allocation.

The Prevention Fund currently comprises more than 12 percent of CDC's entire annual operating budget. The majority of the programs it funds are core public health programs that existed prior to the creation of the Prevention Fund. As a result, cuts to the Prevention Fund will translate into funding shortfalls in programs that states have long relied upon to keep their residents healthy and safe. Among these programs are the 317 immunization program that protects millions of Americans, public health laboratory grants to identify risks and prevent infectious diseases, the Preventive Health and Health Services (Prevent) Block Grant program which allows states the flexibility to address their most pressing health concerns, cancer screenings, chronic disease prevention and other critically important programs. The Prevention Fund represents 53 percent, 20 percent, and 100 percent of these critical programs' budgets, respectively.

Since FY 2010, CDC's budget authority has actually decreased by 11.4 percent (adjusted for inflation). This cut has occurred in spite of the growing and geographically disparate burden of largely preventable health threats such as the opioid epidemic and emerging infectious disease outbreaks such as the Zika virus.

CHIP, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), National Health Service Corps, the Special Diabetes Program and other important programs are critical to ensuring that Americans have access to health care and to improving equity in health outcomes. However, cutting CDC funding undermines the core missions of those programs, as CDC activities supported by the Prevention Fund work in concert with primary care providers to keep Americans healthy. These are separate and distinct sets of activities that work together to protect the health of Americans.

Programs funded through the LHHS appropriations bill, including public health, education, and job training programs funded with non-defense discretionary dollars, have been cut dramatically and disproportionately in recent years as Congress has worked to reduce spending. Yet experts across the political spectrum agree these programs are not a driving factor behind our nation's mid- and long term deficit challenges. The recent cut to the Prevention Fund further exacerbates these budget reductions. Instead of pitting CDC funding against other important health priorities, Congress should significantly increase its investment in CDC to ensure that we have the resources required to address the health challenges facing the nation.

Funding prevention not only saves lives but it saves money. A comprehensive study of evidence-based prevention programs found that every dollar invested yields \$5.60 in savings. Further cuts to public health funding will likely cause children and families to become sicker and our nation's health care costs to grow even faster. Congress must begin to reverse the trend of cutting CDC's budget and significantly increase investments in the agency to ensure the federal, state, and local public health professionals have the skills and resources they need to protect and further improve the health of the American people. As Congress works toward a budget agreement, we urge you to restore these cuts to CDC's budget to ensure that CDC maintains its ability to carry out its mission of saving lives and improving health.

Sincerely,

1,000 Days
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
ADAP Advocacy Association
Addiction Connections Resource
Advocates for Better Children's Diets
The AIDS Institute
American Academy of Nursing
American Association for Dental Research
American Association for the Study of Liver
Diseases
American Association of Colleges of
Pharmacy
American Association on Health and
Disability
American College of Clinical Pharmacy

American College of Obstetricians and
Gynecologists
American Council on Exercise
American Diabetes Association
American Lung Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Microbiology
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Tropical Medicine &
Hygiene
The Arizona Partnership for Immunization
Arizona Public Health Association

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association of Accredited Public Health Programs
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Big Cities Health Coalition
Black Women's Health Imperative
Boulder County Public Health
Brookline Public Health and Human Services
California Academy of Family Physicians
California Immunization Coalition
California School Nurses Organization
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Centralina Area Agency on Aging
Chalk TalkScience Project
ChangeLab Solutions
Chicago Hispanic Health Coalition
Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition (WA State)
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
Children's Environmental Health Network
Chinese American Service League
Coalition for Health Funding
Colorado School Medicaid Consortium
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc.
Community Access National Network
Community Health Council of Wyandotte County
Connecticut Public Health Association
Cook County Department of Public Health

Cooley's Anemia Foundation
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
County Health Executives Association of California
Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association
Design 4 Active Sacramento
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation
Ehrens Consulting
Endocrine Society
Enhance Asian Community on Health
Every Child By Two
Evidence-Based Leadership Council
Foundation for Healthy Generations
Friends of National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities
GBS|CIDP Foundation International
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
Health Promotion Advocates
Health Resources in Action
Healthcare Ready
Healthy Communities Wyandotte
Healthy Living Cape cod
Healthy Teen Network
HIV Medicine Association
Hogg Foundation for Mental Health
Idaho Public Health Association
Immunization Action Coalition
Immunize Nevada
Improving Kids' Environment
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Institute for Public Strategies
Interstitial Cystitis Association
Iowa Public Health Association
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
Joy-Southfield Community Development Corporation
Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center
Lakeshore Foundation
LiveWell Luzerne

Local Public Health Association of
Minnesota
Los Angeles County Department of Public
Health
The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health
Louisiana Public Health Association
Maine Public Health Association
MaineHealth
March of Dimes
The Marfan Foundation
Marshfield Clinic Health System
Maximizing Adolescent Potential Program
Minnesota Childhood Immunization
Coalition
Mississippi Public Health Association
MJH Grant Consulting
Monona County Public Health
National Alliance of State & Territorial
AIDS Directors
National Alopecia Areata Foundation
National Association of Chronic Disease
Directors
National Association of County & City
Health Officials
National Association of State Emergency
Medical Services Officials
National Birth Defects Prevention Network
National Blood Clot Alliance
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Coalition on Health Care
National Committee for Quality Assurance
National Consumers League
National Council of Asian Pacific Islander
Physicians
National Council on Aging
National Foundation for Infectious Diseases
National Minority AIDS Council
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Physicians Alliance
National Prevention Science Coalition
National Recreation and Park Association
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable
National WIC Association

NephCure Kidney International
Nevada Public Health Association
New Hampshire Public Health Association
New Jersey Public Health Association
North American Quitline Consortium
North Carolina Alliance for Health
Oasis Institute
Ohio Public Health Association
Oregon Public Health Association
Parents of Kids with Infectious Diseases
Partners in Care Foundation
Pediatric Nurse Practitioner House Calls
Peggy Lillis Foundation
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Polk County Health Department
Prevent Blindness
The Prevent Cancer Foundation
Prevention Institute
Primary Care Development Corporation
Public Health Foundation
Public Health Institute
Public Health Institute of Western MA
Pulmonary Fibrosis Advocates
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Research!America
Respiratory Health Association
Rural AIDS Action Network
Safe Routes to School National Partnership
Safe States Alliance
Scleroderma Foundation
SHAPE America - Society of Health and
Physical Educators
Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation
Sleep Research Society
Society of General Internal Medicine
The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of
America
South Carolina Tobacco-Free Collaborative
Spondylitis Association of America
Sumner M Redstone Global Center for
Prevention and Wellness
Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
Treatment Action Group

Trust for America's Health
United States Breastfeeding Committee
US Hereditary Angioedema Association
Voices for Vaccines
WalkBoston
Washington State Association of Local
Public Health Officials
Wisconsin Public Health Association
Wolfson Wellness
Wyoming Pathways