

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor &
Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor &
Pensions
United States Senates
Washington, DC 20510

November 29, 2017

Dear Chairman Hatch, Ranking Member Wyden, Chairman Alexander, and Ranking Member Murray:

As organizations committed to improving the public's health, we are writing to urge you to act swiftly to reauthorize several important safety net programs without using the Prevention and Public Health Fund (Prevention Fund) as an offset. These programs are all valuable parts of the public health continuum, and cutting one program to pay for another will not serve to reach our shared goal of improving the health of all Americans. We urge you to work together to develop bipartisan legislation that will fund these programs without further delay.

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), National Health Service Corps and other important health programs saw their funding expire on September 30th. These programs are critical to ensuring that Americans have access to health care and to improving equity in health outcomes. However, cutting the Prevention Fund would undermine the core missions of the programs this legislation seeks to support, as programs supported by the Prevention Fund work in concert with primary care providers to keep Americans healthy.

Today, the Prevention Fund comprises 12 percent of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) budget. CDC initiatives supported by the Prevention Fund improve children's health by helping reduce the risk of lead poisoning, expanding access to vaccines, and supporting breastfeeding moms. The Prevention Fund also helps their parents and caregivers stop smoking, eat better, and be more physically active, while providing resources for state and local public health departments to prepare for and respond to natural disasters and infectious disease outbreaks. While the original authorizing language designated as much as \$2 billion a year in new investments to modernize our prevention and public health efforts, as a result of previous legislative action, less than half of that was available in fiscal year 2017.

Despite the growing and geographically disparate burden of largely preventable diseases; health threats such as the opioid epidemic; emerging infectious disease outbreaks such as the Zika virus; and recent natural disasters in Texas, Florida and California, public health programs remain critically underfunded. Public health spending is still below pre-recession levels, having remained relatively flat for years. The CDC's budget authority has actually decreased by 11.4 percent since FY 2010 after adjusting for inflation, and the Prevention Fund has helped to make up the difference. In addition, the future scheduled growth of the Prevention Fund will allow public health to make up some of this lost ground and increase investments in innovative programs aimed at better preparing the nation for future health challenges.

Reducing our nation's ability to prevent illness and injury will likely cause children and families to become sicker and our nation's healthcare costs to grow even faster. We will never get health spending under control if we do not invest in keeping Americans healthy in the first place. Funding for CHIP, FQHCs and other critical healthcare programs must continue, but not at the expense of our nation's health.

Sincerely,

1,000 Days

Alabama Public Health Association
American Association for Dental Research
American Association on Health and
Disability
American Congress of Obstetricians and
Gynecologists
American Diabetes Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Public Health Association
American Society of Hematology
American Thoracic Society
The Arizona Partnership for Immunization
Arkansas Public Health Association
Art & Science of Health Promotion Institute
Association of Accredited Public Health
Programs
Association of State and Territorial Health
Officials
Big Cities Health Coalition
Briley Consulting, LLC
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund
Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands
Center for Science in the Public Interest

ChangeLab Solutions
Coalition for Health Funding
Colorado Public Health Association
Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago
Children
Council of State and Territorial
Epidemiologists
Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware
Public Health Association
Dorchester County Health Department
Eat Smart Move More South Carolina
Ehrens Consulting
Eta Sigma Gamma
Foundation for Healthy Generations
FrameWork Health, Inc.
Hawaii Public Health Association
Health Resources in Action
Hep B United
Hepatitis B Foundation
HIV Medicine Association
Hogg Foundation for Mental Health
Idaho Public Health Association
Illinois Public Health Association
Immunize Nevada
Impactivo, LLC.

Indiana Public Health Association
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Intermountain Public Health Consulting,
LLC
Iowa Public Health Association
Johnson County Department of Health &
Environment
Kansas Public Health Association
LA Public Health Association
Lakeshore Foundation
Live Well Luzerne
Local Public Health Association of
Minnesota
Los Angeles County Department of Public
Health
Louisiana Public Health Institute
Maine Public Health Association
March of Dimes
Massachusetts Public Health Association
Metropolitan Area Planning Council
Michigan Public Health Association
Missouri Public Health Association
Montana Public Health Association
National Association of County & City
Health Officials
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of State Alcohol and
Drug Abuse Directors
National Institute for Children's Health
Quality
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Recreation and Park Association
National WIC Association
Nemours Children's Health System
Nevada Public
New Jersey Public Health Association
North Carolina Public Health Association
North Dakota Public Health Association
Ohio Public Health Association
Origins FTD, Inc.
Partners for a Healthier Community, Inc.
Peggy Lillis Foundation
Pennsylvania Public Health Association

Physician Assistant Education Association
Prevent Blindness
The Prevent Cancer Foundation
Prevention Institute
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses
Association
Primary Care Development Corporation
Professional & Technical Employees Local
17
Public Health Advocates
Public Health Foundation
Public Health Institute
Redstone Global Center for Prevention and
Wellness
Research!America
RiverStone Health
San Mateo County Medical Center
The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of
America
Society for Public Health Education
Tennessee Public Health Association
Trust for America's Health
U.S. Breastfeeding Committee
Utah Public Health Association
Virginia Public Health Association
Washington State Public Health Association
Wayne State University Center for Health
and Community Impact
Wisconsin Public Health Association
Wyoming Pathways