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February 13, 2015

Dear Senator/Representative:

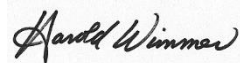
As you determine your appropriations priorities for Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16), the American Lung Association asks that your requests include programs that will promote lung health and work to reduce lung disease. The American Lung Association also strongly encourages you to oppose all policy riders on appropriations bills.

Lung disease is the third leading cause of death in the United States and lung cancer is the leading cancer killer among both women and men. More than 25 million people, including 7 million children, suffer from asthma. The nation is making progress to combat this toll but this advancement can only continue with sustained investment and strong laws. Below is an overview of critical lung health priorities for FY16 and I have attached additional information for your consideration.

The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through education, advocacy and research. We support continued investments in public health in order to reduce the burden of lung disease in the U.S.

The American Lung Association is grateful for your support. Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations.

Sincerely,



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National President and CEO

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FY16 L-HHS Appropriations Priorities

- **Provide at least \$30.596 million for CDC's National Asthma Control Program (NACP)**

It is estimated that more than 25 million Americans currently have asthma, of whom 7 million are children. The NACP tracks asthma prevalence, promotes asthma control and prevention and builds capacity in state programs. This program has been highly effective: the rate of asthma has increased, yet asthma mortality and morbidity rates have decreased. However, at present only 23 states receive funding – leaving a nationwide public health void that can lead to unnecessary asthma-related attacks and healthcare costs.

- **Provide \$220 million for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Office of Smoking and Health (OSH)**

The American Lung Association supports \$220 million for the Office of Smoking and Health at CDC. OSH is the lead federal agency for tobacco prevention and control and created the "Tips from Former Smokers" Campaign, which has prompted hundreds of thousands of smokers to call 1-800-QUIT-NOW or visit smokefree.gov for assistance in quitting – with even more smokers making quit attempts on their own or with the assistance of their physicians. Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States and costs the U.S. over \$289 billion in healthcare costs and lost productivity. As such, support for tobacco cessation and prevention activities is among the most effective and cost-effective investments in disease prevention.

- **Provide \$18.613 million for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Climate and Health Program**

Climate change is one of the greatest threats to public health. CDC's Climate and Health Program is the only HHS program devoted to identifying the risks and develop effective responses to the health impacts of climate change, including worsening air pollution; diseases that emerge in new areas; stronger and longer heat waves; more frequent and severe droughts, and provides guidance to states in adaptation. Pilot projects in 16 state and two city health departments states use CDC's Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) framework to develop and implement health adaptation plans and address gaps in critical public health functions and services. As climate-related challenges intensify, CDC must have increased resources to support states and cities in meeting the challenge.

- **Provide At Least \$32 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

Research supported by NIH has been instrumental in the fight to identify the causes of and effective treatments for lung diseases. The American Lung Association supports increased funding for NIH research on the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cures for tobacco use and all lung diseases including lung cancer, asthma, COPD and tuberculosis. The Lung Association strongly supports the \$215 million precision medicine proposal included in the President's FY16 budget. Lung cancer

remains the leading cancer killer in the United States and while deaths among men have plateaued, the number is still rising among women.

- **Preserve the Prevention and Public Health Fund as mandated by the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act***

The Prevention and Public Health Fund is crucial in financing proven and effective public health and wellness programs. Already the Prevention and Public Health Fund is helping to reduce tobacco use, the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, and has been used to finance the successful “Tips from Former Smokers.” The Fund is also assisting states in monitoring outbreaks of infectious diseases such as influenza, and is being used to prevent and treat diseases, including COPD, lung cancer and asthma. Eliminating the Fund would put critical public health programs in jeopardy leading to greater health care costs over time. The Lung Association supports Congress appropriating the fund and strongly opposes any further cuts to the Fund.

FY16 Interior-Environment Appropriations Priorities

Support and Defend EPA’s Programs to Address Climate Change and Improve Air Quality

The American Lung Association urges the Committee to defend the Clean Air Act as a key public health safeguard, especially for populations most at risk, including those with asthma and other lung diseases, children, older adults, people living in low-income communities, people who work, exercise or play outdoors, and people with heart disease and diabetes. We urge Congress to reject any policy riders that would block, delay or weaken EPA’s ability to save lives and improve public health by reducing air pollution, including carbon pollution from power plants. Specific recommendations are below:

- **Provide \$165.8 million for Federal Support for Air Quality Management**

The Federal Support for Air Quality Management Program assists states, tribes, and local air pollution control agencies in the administration of programs and standards to protect the air we breathe. States have the primary responsibility for developing clean air measures necessary to meet federal standards, but rely on support and assistance from EPA to create effective comprehensive air quality management programs. The EPA also supports training for state, tribal, and local air pollution professionals on rulemakings and other significant actions. Please provide \$165.8 million for Federal Support for Air Quality Management, an increase of \$38.3 million over FY 2015 enacted levels.

- **Provide \$268.2 million for Categorical Grant: State and Local Air Quality Management**

State and local air pollution agencies need more funding, not less, to ensure proper protection of the public through implementation of the Clean Air Act. State agencies are on the front lines of vital efforts to improve air quality and protect public health, yet they are perennially underfunded. This must change in order to secure the benefits promised by Clean Air Act protections. Please provide

American Lung Association Appropriations Priorities

Fiscal Year 2016

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies

\$268.2 million for State and Local Air Quality Management, an increase of \$40 million compared to FY 2015 enacted levels.

- **Provide \$117.7 million for the Climate Protection Program**

The EPA has a critical role to play in reducing carbon pollution, methane, and other climate pollutants and must have the resources needed to meet the challenge ahead. Reducing carbon pollution as proposed in EPA's Clean Power Plan will save lives and improve health. To fully support the Climate Protection Program, please provide \$109.6 million for Environmental Program and Management and \$8.1 million for Science and Technology, an overall increase for the Climate Protection Program of \$14.3 million compared to FY 2015 enacted levels.

- **Provide \$30 million for the Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant Program**

Twenty million old diesel engines are in use today that pollute communities and threaten workers. Immense opportunities remain to reduce diesel emissions through the DERA program. Please provide at least \$30 million in FY 2016, equivalent to FY 2015 enacted levels and an increase of \$20 million compared to the President's FY 2016 proposal.

- **Provide \$8.1 million for the Categorical Grant: Radon**

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States, and the EPA's State Indoor Radon Grants are the only nationwide program that helps prevent exposure to it. States and tribes depend on this program as well as technical assistance through the Radon Programs to educate the public and fight this deadly carcinogen. In 2003, the National Academy of Sciences estimated that radon kills 21,000 people each year.

FY16 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Appropriations Priorities

- **Provide \$25 million for HUD's Healthy Homes Program**

The American Lung Association strongly supports HUD's Healthy Homes Program and its initiatives to make housing safer for families by eliminating radon and asthma triggers. Healthy Homes is the only program in the federal government directly works to improve the health and safety of homes which otherwise would threaten the health of their residents. Recognizing the continued dangers to children and other vulnerable populations, the American Lung Association urges HUD to make all government-subsidized housing smokefree and require radon testing and mitigation in all HUD-assisted housing programs.