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January 27, 2014

The Honorable Thomas Carper  
Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security  
and Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thomas Coburn  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Homeland Security  
and Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Coburn:

I am writing to express our deep concern with Section 301 of the Substitute Amendment to S. 1486 and its impact to nonprofit mailers, as well as state the American Lung Association's strong support for Senator Tammy Baldwin's amendment.

The proposed revisions to Section 301 would have devastating consequences to nonprofits, including the American Lung Association, who rely on the U.S. Postal Service. Section 301 would remove many of the critical checks and balances provided by the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) that are a hallmark of current law. Section 301 permits the Postal Service to set its own prices and would also change the CPI cap on each class of market dominant mail – giving the Postal Service the ability to raise standard mail prices while reducing the price of other classes. This would dramatically increase the cost of nonprofit mail, including for the American Lung Association.

The American Lung Association has already been forced to cut 1.84 million pieces of mail from the current fiscal year and is still facing at least \$70,000 in additional postage costs because of the exigent rate case. Section 301 would make this above-inflation rate case permanent – contrary to the initial ruling of the PRC. Section 301 would directly impact the American Lung Association's ability to deliver programs – including funding research to improve treatments and find cures for the more than 35 million Americans with chronic lung diseases; giving children the tools they need to manage their asthma so that they can stay healthy in school and be ready to learn; fighting for healthy air and keeping kids from smoking. The American Lung Association – like other nonprofits – would be forced to further reduce mail volume, which will just reinforce the Postal Service's downward spiral. These amendments could force some nonprofits out of using direct mail as a community education and fundraising vehicle.

The current CPI cap is an essential element of current law that has demonstrated that it is a strong incentive for the Postal Service to reduce costs and reform to face its 21<sup>st</sup> century reality. Removal of the cap and PRC regulation will have a devastating impact on nonprofits – including the American Lung Association.

Affordable postage rates enable the American Lung Association and other nonprofit organizations, including churches and faith organizations, to provide a critical role in our society. I respectfully urge you to reconsider Section 301 and support the Baldwin Amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harold Wimmer". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light gray rectangular background.

Harold P. Wimmer  
National President and CEO

Cc: Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs