



April 4, 2016

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
 Chairman  
 Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
 Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
 Committee on Appropriations  
 United States Senate  
 Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
 Ranking Member  
 Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
 Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
 Committee on Appropriations  
 United States Senate  
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

As your Subcommittee moves forward with the FY 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we urge you to allocate at least \$210 million to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Office on Smoking and Health (OSH), which is the amount Congress enacted for FY 2016. The work that OSH does is critical to ending the tobacco epidemic that takes far too many lives and exacts an enormous financial toll on the nation's economy.

While we have made great strides in reducing tobacco use, there is still more work to be done. Tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of death in the United States. Every year, it kills more than 480,000 Americans and is responsible for an estimated \$170 billion in health care costs. Nearly 60 percent of these health care costs are paid by government programs such as Medicare and Medicaid.

OSH leads federal efforts to reduce the death and disease caused by tobacco by funding activities that help to prevent youth from starting to use tobacco and help adult tobacco users to quit. For example, OSH funds the highly successful national media campaign, Tips from Former Smokers. During a nine week phase of the Tips campaign in 2014, 1.8 million Americans were motivated to make a quit attempt and 104,000 smokers quit. The campaign is highly cost-effective with a cost of just \$393 per year of life saved, far below the \$50,000 that

is an accepted benchmark for cost-effective public health programs. The media campaign continues to generate substantial increases in call volumes to the national quitline number and visits to the associated website.

OSH also provides funding to states for quitlines, which provide telephone-based counseling to help tobacco users to quit and, in some states, provide tobacco cessation medications. Quitlines greatly increase the chances that a smoker will quit successfully. OSH provides funding and technical assistance to health departments in all states to help maintain and enhance tobacco prevention and cessation programs at the state and community level. OSH also conducts critical research about the prevalence of tobacco use and alerts policy makers about trends in tobacco use such as the recent dramatic increase in e-cigarette use among adolescents.

Investing in effective tobacco prevention and cessation programs will save lives and reduce health costs from treating tobacco-related diseases. As you develop appropriations legislation for FY 2017, we respectfully request that CDC's Office on Smoking and Health receive at least \$210 million so it can continue its important tobacco prevention and cessation work.

Sincerely,

Academy of General Dentistry  
Action on Smoking & Health  
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial  
Pathology  
American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and  
Neck Surgery  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association for Cancer Research  
American Association for Dental Research  
American Association for Respiratory Care  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Occupational and  
Environmental Medicine  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Congress of Obstetricians and  
Gynecologists  
American Heart Association  
American Lung Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American School Health Association  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
American Thoracic Society  
Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and  
Neonatal Nurses  
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids  
Cancer Prevention and Treatment Fund  
ClearWay Minnesota  
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America  
Eta Sigma Gamma - National Health Education  
Honorary  
International Association for the Study of Lung  
Cancer  
March of Dimes  
National African American Tobacco Prevention  
Network  
National Association of County & City Health  
Officials  
National Latino Alliance for Health Equity  
National Network of Public Health Institutes  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Prevention Institute  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and  
Interventions  
Society for Public Health Education  
Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco  
The Society of State Leaders of Health and  
Physical Education  
Trust for America's Health

CC: Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee  
Members