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December 6, 2011

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Inouye and Cochran, and Ranking Members Rogers and Dicks:

Thank you for your leadership in crafting the fiscal year 2012 (FY12) Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (L-HHS) Appropriations bill and the FY12 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies (Int/Env) Appropriations bill.

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. The Lung Association supports continued investments in public health in order to reduce the burden of lung disease in the U.S. which is the nation's third leading cause of death.

As you work to finalize the FY12 L-HHS and Int/Env Appropriations bills, the American Lung Association encourages you to oppose all policy riders and support the following funding recommendations:

FY12 L-HHS Appropriations

- **Provide \$35 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 asthma, COPD, lung cancer and tuberculosis.

- Provide \$208.6 million for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s Office of Smoking and Health (OSH), as provided by the Senate L-HHS bill**
 OSH is the lead federal agency for tobacco prevention and control. Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States and costs this country over \$90 billion a year in direct medical costs. As such, support for tobacco cessation and prevention activities is among the most effective and cost-effective investments in disease prevention.
- Provide \$31 million for CDC’s National Asthma Control Program (NACP), and maintain it as a stand-alone program**
 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 from 1980 to 1995, yet asthma mortality rates have decreased by more than 35 percent since the establishment of NACP. Recently, CDC issued data that showed that the prevalence of asthma is increasing in the United States, particularly among minority populations. Maintaining NACP will be critical to educating patients on asthma management and further reducing unnecessary asthma-related deaths as well as healthcare costs.
- 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 states to monitor outbreaks of infectious diseases such as influenza, and 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 fully funding the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

FY12 Int/Env Appropriations

- Provide \$8.62 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as provided by the Senate Int/Env bill, and preserve the EPA’s ability to implement the *Clean Air Act*.**
 The Lung Association urges Congress to defend and strengthen the *Clean Air Act* and its health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standards to protect the health of all people, including populations most at risk. The *Clean Air Act* guards the most vulnerable Americans—those with asthma and other lung diseases, children, older adults, and people with heart disease and diabetes—from the dangers of airborne pollutants, including the threats from growing carbon dioxide pollution. It is essential that we achieve cleaner air sooner to protect the health of all Americans. Congress must not delay or weaken any EPA authority to address air pollution.

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

Sincerely,



Charles D. Connor
 President and CEO