

Harold P. Wimmer
National President and CEO

December 14, 2017

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
S-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
S-107, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
S-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, Leader Schumer and Leader Pelosi:

The American Lung Association greatly appreciates the bipartisan and bicameral support for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). CHIP is a vital program for almost nine million American children and without its continuation, the health of these children would be put at risk. However, the Lung Association is equally supportive of the Prevention and Public Health Fund. We are again dismayed that in HJ Res 124, the House is putting forth a cut to the Prevention Fund to pay for CHIP. We oppose this use of the Prevention Fund and instead urge Congress to find other means to fund this crucial program.

Children with serious health conditions including asthma cannot be without healthcare coverage. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), children with asthma are more likely to have coverage through CHIP and Medicaid than children without asthma (47.4% vs. 38.1%), making the funding extension vitally important.

Public (or population) health is complimentary but different from clinical health. Raiding funding for public health will negatively impact children's health. Losing public health investments aimed at preventing illness and

Advocacy Office:

1331 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 1425 North
Washington, DC 20004-1710
Ph: 202-785-3355 F: 202-452-1805

Corporate Office:

55 West Wacker Drive, Suite 1150 | Chicago, IL 60601
Ph: 312-801-7630 F: 202-452-1805 info@Lung.org

injury is likely cause children to be sicker and our nation's healthcare costs to skyrocket. Our nation will never get costs under control if we don't invest in keeping children and families healthy in the first place.

Tragic public health emergencies like wildfires in the West, and hurricanes in Florida, Puerto Rico and Texas highlight how urgent it is for our nation to maintain investments in the public health infrastructure. Children are at the greatest risk from these disasters and cutting the Prevention Fund – and therefore funding from CDC – will further jeopardize the health of the very children CHIP works to protect.

Sincerely,



Harold P. Wimmer
National President and CEO

cc: The Honorable Steny Hoyer, Minority Whip, House of Representatives
The Honorable Roy Blunt, Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chairman, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member, Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, and Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Orrin Hatch, Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance
The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Finance
The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen, Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives
The Honorable Nita Lowey, Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives
The Honorable Greg Walden, Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce, House of Representatives
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce, House of Representatives

