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Dear Senator/Representative:

As the 115th Congress gets underway, the American Lung Association urges you to fight to promote lung health and prevent lung disease for all who live in America today. Your support for lung health protections and funding for research, education, and prevention programs is vital in the fight against lung diseases, including lung cancer, asthma and COPD.

Lung disease is the third leading cause of death in the United States, and lung cancer is the leading cancer killer among women and men. 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 which we ask for your support.

Protect and Sustain Non-Defense Discretionary Spending. Investment in public health programs saves lives, reduces health costs and strengthens our nation. The American Lung Association requests your help to ensure adequate funding for programs funded through annual appropriations by continuing the bipartisan practice of providing relief from sequestration budget cuts and by opposing any new efforts to cut these programs more deeply. Critical public health agencies including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have already been cut dramatically.

The Lung Association calls your attention to the fact that 12 percent of CDC's budget is funded by the Prevention and Public Health Fund (Prevention Fund). Repealing or eliminating the Prevention Fund without a corresponding increase in the allocation for the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education appropriations bill would leave a funding gap for essential public health programs that would have dire consequences to our nation's health.

Protect the Clean Air Act. The Clean Air Act is a major public health success story, having successfully reduced levels of air pollutants that cause illnesses and premature deaths. A rigorous, peer-reviewed analysis of the costs and benefits of Clean Air Act found that air quality improvements under the Act will save \$2 trillion by 2020 and prevent at least 230,000 deaths annually. However, according to the Lung Association's most recent *State of the Air* report, more than half of all Americans still live in places where the air they breathe can harm their health. In addition, climate change is increasing the likelihood of days with unhealthy levels of ozone and particle pollution.

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Congress should support full implementation and enforcement of the Clean Air Act to ensure that all Americans have healthy air to breathe, particularly those who are most vulnerable to harm from air pollution, including children, the elderly, people with asthma and other lung diseases, people with cardiovascular disease, and people living in poverty. Any attempts to block, weaken, or delay the Clean Air Act or its life-saving standards must be rejected.

Protect the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act. In the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, Congress tasked the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with protecting the public from the proven dangers of tobacco use, including death from lung disease, cancer and heart disease, based on what is appropriate for the protection of the public health. Tobacco kills 480,000 Americans each year and costs the nation upwards of \$332 billion annually in lost productivity and healthcare costs. Each day, 2,500 children smoke their first cigarette and 2,100 smoke a cigar for the first time. In order to protect our nation's children and our nation's health, all tobacco products must be overseen by FDA.

The American Lung Association urges you to oppose any effort to weaken FDA's authority over e-cigarettes, cigars and other tobacco products and instead support FDA's efforts to protect the next generation of America's youth from tobacco products.

Ensure access to affordable and quality healthcare. Americans with lung disease need access to quality and affordable healthcare. As Congress considers changes to the healthcare system, we urge you to protect patients with lung disease, recognizing that reductions in coverage or care, annual or lifetime caps, or the return of allowing discrimination on pre-existing conditions, threatens the lives of Americans with lung disease. The Lung Association also recognizes that preventive services are at the heart of improving America's health and ultimately reducing healthcare costs.

Oppose the Elimination of Federal Safeguards for Lung Health

A series of so-called regulatory "reform" bills have already passed the House of Representatives that would make it harder to protect the health of Americans from the dangers of unhealthy air and tobacco by imposing years of delays and rejecting science. We urge your opposition to this kind of unnecessary and burdensome legislation that would put vulnerable Americans at even greater risk.

Thank you in advance for your support. As the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through education, advocacy and research, the American Lung Association urges your support for our lung health agenda in order to reduce the enormous burden of lung disease in the U.S.

Sincerely,



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