



AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION®

Fighting for Air

Albert A. Rizzo, M.D.
Chair
National Board of Directors

January 19, 2012

Ross P. Lanzafame, Esq.
Chair-Elect
National Board of Directors

Dear Conferee:

H. James Gooden
Past-Chair

On behalf the millions of Americans with lung diseases, I am writing to state our strong support for the Prevention and Public Health Fund (the Fund) and urge you – as a member of the payroll tax cut conference committee to oppose any attempts to divert or use the Fund for any purposes other than what it was originally intended in the Affordable Care Act.

Christine L. Bryant
Secretary/Treasurer

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, chronic diseases account for 75 percent of all health care costs. Investments must be made to prevent and chronic disease and the Prevention and Public Health Fund is already helping Americans across the country to make healthier choices and take responsibility for their own health and the health of their families. Because of the Fund, states and communities are now able to help more people quit smoking through cessation programs and improve lung health by preventing and treating lung diseases, including COPD, lung cancer, and asthma. It is also allowing states and communities to monitor outbreaks of infectious diseases, such as influenza, and enhance prevention services in low-income and underserved communities.

Geri Reinardy, M.P.A.
Speaker
Nationwide Assembly

Marcia D. Williams, Ed.D.
Speaker-Elect
Nationwide Assembly

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Charles D. Connor
President &
Chief Executive Officer

Tobacco-related diseases are the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, killing over 443,000 Americans each year. Smoking alone costs the U.S. economy \$193 billion dollars each year, \$96 billion in direct health care costs and \$97 billion in lost productivity.

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Recent studies show the promise of prevention – that investing in tobacco control programs save money *and* lives. Just this month, a study conducted by economists at George Washington University was published and found that for every \$1 invested in Massachusetts' comprehensive Medicaid quit smoking program saved \$3 – in just over one year. Another study found that Washington State saved \$5 for every \$1 invested in comprehensive tobacco programs from 2000-2009. In sum, prevention works, it saves lives and saves money.

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Cutting or eliminating the Fund would endanger the health and wellness of those in your communities and put critical public health programs and services in jeopardy, leading to greater health care costs. Please preserve the fund and stand up for this critical investment so that the dollars can be put to work in our communities to prevent and reduce diseases.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CD Connor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first two letters of the first name being large and prominent.

Charles D. Connor
President and CEO