

May 13, 2016

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The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Reid:

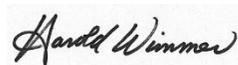
The American Lung Association respectfully requests the U.S. Senate oppose using the Prevention and Public Health Fund (the Prevention Fund) as an offset to pay for the Zika supplemental funding bill. The proposal would take \$1.2 billion – \$1 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 and \$200 million in FY2018 – from the Prevention and Public Health Fund (the Prevention Fund). Taking funding from the Prevention Fund to pay for other priorities – even those as important as Zika response funding – will only damage the long-term health and economy of our nation.

The American Lung Association recognizes Zika as a significant public health issue and threat that must be addressed. However, using money from the Prevention Fund as a pay-for would have a devastating effect on our nation's public health – especially the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) because the Prevention Fund presently supports a significant block of funding for CDC. Taking \$1.2 billion from the Prevention Fund would have ripple effects across CDC programs – that would weaken funding for asthma programs, youth tobacco prevention and other lung health issues.

Using the Prevention Fund as a pay-for could also end the overwhelmingly successful [Tips from Former Smokers Campaign](#) - one of the single most effective public health interventions in our nation. The Tips Campaign has resulted in hundreds of thousands of Americans successfully quitting and millions more trying to quit.

The Lung Association urges Congress to approve additional support to respond to the Zika public health threat, but ask for your opposition in using the Prevention and Public Health Fund as an offset.

Sincerely,



Harold P. Wimmer  
National President and CEO

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