



November 21, 2017

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

On behalf of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), the American Heart Association, and the American Lung Association, we write to urge the Finance Committee to oppose using the Prevention and Public Health Fund to pay for reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). Our organizations strongly support the CHIP and FQHC programs. We are equally supportive of the Prevention and Public Health Fund and we were dismayed that the House chose to cut the Prevention Fund by \$6.35 billion over the next seven years to pay for CHIP and FQHCs. We are hopeful that the Senate will seek to find other means to fund these crucial programs.

Prevention and Public Health Fund dollars currently make up 12 percent of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) budget. Within the CDC, some programs are paid for – in part or in whole – by the Prevention Fund. For instance, the Prevention Fund supports 60 percent of the CDC's Division for Heart Disease and Stroke budget and supports the Million Hearts campaign, which is paid for in full by the fund. Other programs provide vaccinations and disease screening, and increase physical activity and improve nutrition.

The CDC's Office for Smoking and Health (OSH) receives 60 percent of its funding from the Prevention Fund. OSH operates the extremely successful and cost-efficient Tips from Former Smoker's campaign that has already helped over half a million Americans to quit smoking. Smoking causes cancer, lung and heart disease and is the nation's leading cause of preventable death. Without funding from the Prevention Fund, OSH would not have been able to operate critical programs like Tips that are crucial in the overall effort to improve the health of our nation.

Coverage provided through CHIP is vital to the lives of children affected by congenital heart disease, cancer, and respiratory diseases like asthma. FQHCs provide millions of lower-income rural and urban American families with a primary care 'home' in their community by reducing

barriers such as cost, lack of insurance, distance, and language for their patients. However, programs funded through the Prevention Fund are also vital to the lives of children and adults. We believe it would be short sighted and detrimental to shift money from the Prevention and Public Health Fund. Reducing public health funding will increase the health care costs that the United States incurs.

We ask that you continue the vital effort to reauthorize funds for CHIP and FQHCs and avoid using the Prevention and Public Health Fund as an offset.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to our groups if you have any further questions.

Thank you,

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)

American Heart Association

American Lung Association