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August 18, 2017

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
706 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal,

As leaders of national organizations committed to improving the public's health, we would like to thank you for submitting a motion to commit to protect public health and preserve the Prevention and Public Health Fund (Prevention Fund) during the Senate's consideration of H.R. 1628, the American Health Care Act. While the motion was not considered before the bill was pulled from further consideration, we appreciate your defense of public health.

As you know, the Prevention Fund was included in the Affordable Care Act as part of the effort to keep Americans healthy and reduce health costs over the long term. The Fund is helping to improve health in states and communities across the nation by helping to reduce tobacco use, encourage healthy eating and exercise habits amongst children, provide flu and other immunizations, and fight infectious diseases.

The Prevention Fund now comprises 12 percent of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) budget. These crucial investments strategically support disease prevention, public health workforce, and research – all aimed at improving the health of Americans while reducing health care costs. Eliminating the Prevention Fund would have devastated the CDC budget and wreaked havoc on our efforts to reduce chronic disease rates, immunize our children and prepare the public health system to address infectious disease outbreaks and other threats.

Thank you for offering this motion and encouraging 20 of your Senate colleagues to sign on. Your leadership has been crucial in preserving this important investment and protecting public health.

Thank you for all of your efforts to protect the Prevention Fund and Americans' access to health care. We look forward to working with you to continue efforts to improve health in America.

Sincerely,



Donna Martin  
President  
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics



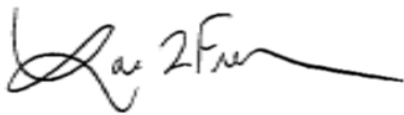
Nancy Brown  
Chief Executive Officer  
American Heart Association



Harold P. Wimmer  
National President and Chief Executive Officer  
American Lung Association



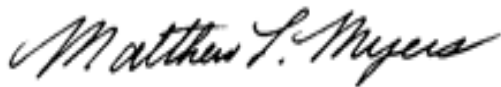
Georges C. Benjamin  
Executive Director  
American Public Health Association



Lori Freeman  
Chief Executive Officer  
Association of Maternal and  
Child Health Programs



Michael Fraser  
Executive Director  
Association of State and  
Territorial Health Officials



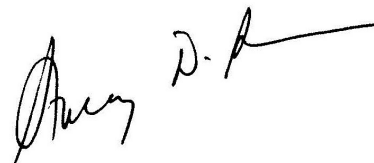
Matthew L. Myers  
President  
Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids



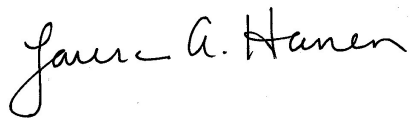
Andrea Weddle  
Executive Director  
HIV Medicine Association




Chris Busky  
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Stacey D. Stewart  
President  
March of Dimes



Laura Hanen  
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Elaine Auld  
Chief Executive Officer  
Society for Public Health Education



John Auerbach  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Trust for America's Health