



costs. More than 60 percent of these health care costs are paid by government programs such as Medicare and Medicaid.

OSH plays a critical role in reducing the death and disease caused by tobacco by funding activities that help to prevent youth from starting to use tobacco and help adult tobacco users to quit. For example, OSH funds the highly successful national media campaign, Tips from Former Smokers. This media campaign has motivated about five million smokers to make a quit attempt, helped approximately 500,000 smokers to successfully quit, and saved at least 50,000 people from premature death since its inception in 2012. The campaign is highly cost-effective with a cost of just \$393 per year of life saved, far below the \$50,000 that is an accepted benchmark for cost-effective public health programs.

OSH also provides funding to states for quitlines, which provide telephone-based counseling to help tobacco users to quit and, in some states, provide tobacco cessation medications. Smokers who use quitlines are at least two to three times more likely to succeed in quitting compared to those who try to quit on their own. OSH provides funding and technical assistance to health departments in all states to help maintain and enhance tobacco prevention and cessation programs at the state and community level. OSH also conducts critical research about the prevalence of tobacco use and alerts policy makers about trends in tobacco use such as the dramatic increase in e-cigarette use among adolescents in recent years.

We oppose the FY 2018 President's budget request to eliminate OSH. It would eliminate the Tips media campaign, eliminate dedicated funding for state quitlines and state tobacco control programs, and eliminate or seriously weaken CDC's ability to collect data on tobacco use and identify emerging threats. While the President's budget request says states could use funding from a newly created America's Health Block Grant to reduce tobacco use, there is no guarantee that states would do so, and states would almost certainly have to substantially cut back existing tobacco programs. Even with the \$500 million America's Health Block Grant, the President's budget request would reduce overall funding for CDC's chronic disease prevention programs by \$222 million, a nearly 20 percent cut.

Investing in effective tobacco prevention and cessation programs will save lives and reduce health costs from treating tobacco-related diseases. As you develop appropriations legislation for FY 2018, we respectfully request that CDC's Office on Smoking and Health receive at least \$210 million so it can continue its important tobacco prevention and cessation work.

Sincerely,

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| Academy of General Dentistry                                 | College on Problems of Drug Dependence                        |
| Action on Smoking & Health                                   | Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America                     |
| American Academy of Family Physicians                        | COPD Foundation   |
| American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology         | Eta Sigma Gamma - National Health Education Honorary          |
| American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery     | International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer        |
| American Academy of Pediatrics                               | March of Dimes  |
| American Association for Dental Research                     | National African American Tobacco Prevention Network          |
| American Association for Respiratory Care                    | National Association of County & City Health Officials        |
| American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network                | National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners         |
| American College of Cardiology                               | National Association of Social Workers                        |
| American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine  | National Center for Health Research                           |
| American College of Physicians                               | National Hispanic Medical Association                         |
| American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists         | National Latino Alliance for Health Equity                    |
| American Dental Association                                  | National Network of Public Health Institutes                  |
| American Heart Association                                   | Oncology Nursing Society                                      |
| American Lung Association                                    | Prevention Institute  |
| American Psychological Association                           | Prevention Partners   |
| American Public Health Association                           | Public Health Solutions                                       |
| American Society of Clinical Oncology                        | Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions      |
| American Thoracic Society                                    | Society for Public Health Education                           |
| Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health         | Society for Research on Nicotine & Tobacco                    |
| Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses | Students Against Destructive Decisions                        |
| Big Cities Health Coalition                                  | The Society of State Leaders of Health and Physical Education |
| Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids                               | Trust for America’s Health                                    |
| ClearWay Minnesota   |   |

CC: United States House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations Members