



June 20, 2017

The Honorable Roy Blunt
 Chairman
 Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
 Services, Education, and Related Agencies
 Committee on Appropriations
 United States Senate
 Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
 Ranking Member
 Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
 Services, Education, and Related Agencies
 Committee on Appropriations
 United States Senate
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

As your Subcommittee moves forward with the FY 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we urge you to allocate at least \$210 million to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Office on Smoking and Health (OSH), which is the amount your Subcommittee approved in its FY 2017 bill. The work that OSH does is critical to ending the tobacco epidemic that takes far too many lives and exacts an enormous financial toll on the nation's economy.

While we have made great strides in reducing tobacco use, there is still more work to be done. Tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of death in the United States. Every year, it

kills more than 480,000 Americans and is responsible for an estimated \$170 billion in health care 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,

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 Senate Committee on Appropriations Members