

July 24, 2013

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The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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Dear Chairwoman Mikulski, Ranking Member Shelby, Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Moran:

On behalf of the American Lung Association, I write to thank the Committee for its strong support of lung health priorities, especially lung health research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), in its bill for the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies for fiscal year 2014. The American Lung Association applauds the Committee's strong support of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute's (NHLBI) work on Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), and the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) efforts on lung cancer.


Lung disease is America's number three killer and is responsible for one in every six deaths. Each year, close to 400,000 Americans die of lung disease, including COPD which includes emphysema and chronic bronchitis. More than 33 million Americans suffer from a chronic lung disease (including COPD), and it costs the economy an estimated \$106 billion each year. Another 160,000 Americans die each year from lung cancer and over 370,000 Americans are living with lung cancer. During 2012, more than 226,000 new cases of lung cancer were diagnosed – roughly 14 percent of all cancer diagnoses.

The American Lung Association believes that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) should have a comprehensive program to address Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease to complement the outstanding work of NIH in studying this leading killer. For too long, COPD has not received the attention that is needed at CDC and although we deeply appreciate the impact of COPD research

being supported by NIH, these discoveries must be applied to the public health setting. We urge the Committee's support for this initiative moving forward.

Again, on behalf of the American Lung Association and the millions of Americans living with lung disease, we greatly appreciate the Committee's strong, bipartisan support for lung health issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harold Wimmer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Harold Wimmer
National President and CEO