

Harold P. Wimmer
National President and
CEO

February 21, 2019

The Honorable Dick Durbin
U.S Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

The American Lung Association is pleased to support your American Cures Act. This bill promotes public health by ensuring steady increases in funding for biomedical research across several federal agencies.

The American Lung Association is the oldest voluntary public health organization in the United States and the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through education, advocacy and research. We support continued investments in public health and biomedical research in order to reduce the burden of lung disease on the 33 million Americans with conditions such as asthma, lung cancer and COPD.

As you know, a robust and reliable investment in scientific discovery is crucial to improve patients' health, strengthen the economy in the near- and long-term and maintain the U.S.'s global preeminence in medical innovation. The National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Defense Health Program, and the Veterans Medical & Prosthetics Research Program conduct biomedical and public health research that is essential to finding effective treatments for lung disease and broaden our medical understanding of these conditions. Reliable funding for these agencies is critical to ensure that they continue to work on new and innovative biomedical research. The NIH has benefitted from steady increases in funding in the past, but the CDC has not. Without stable funding growth, the CDC cannot make significant commitments to meaningful public health programs and interventions.

Your American Cures Act will ensure consistent, steady growth in funding for the NIH, the CDC and these other vital public health and research agencies. The bill would increase funding for each agency at the rate of inflation plus 5 percent (approximately a 7 percent increase each year). With the guaranteed growth in funding, agencies and programs could make long-term investments in improving our nation's lung health and finding new treatments and cures for lung disease.

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The American Lung Association is committed to working with you to see this bill become law and continue our mutual goal of advancing the health of the American people and reducing the burden of lung disease.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harold P. Wimmer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'H'.

Harold P. Wimmer
National President and CEO

