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November 8, 2010

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-128, Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, HHS, and Education
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-146A, Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, HHS, and Education
1016 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Inouye, Cochran and Harkin, and Representatives Obey, Lewis and Tiahrt:

Thank you for your leadership in crafting the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (L-HHS) Appropriations bills.

The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through education, advocacy and research. Much of our work focuses on tobacco cessation, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), lung cancer, other lung diseases, and air quality.

As you work to conference the House and Senate L-HHS bills, please consider the following American Lung Association positions on funding priorities:

National Institutes of Health (NIH) – Provide \$32 billion as proposed in the budget and in the House and Senate bills. Research conducted through NIH is crucial to developing cures and better treatment options for many of our most serious diseases. Maintaining our research infrastructure will ensure the continuation of much needed breakthroughs in health care. The very exciting announcement made by the National Cancer Institute on November 4th with preliminary results from the National Lung Cancer Screening Trial demonstrates why it is so important to continue our nation's strong investment in research.

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** – Provide the Senate committee-passed \$6.906 billion for CDC. The public health and disease prevention services provided by CDC have been instrumental in lowering the incidence of many of our most serious diseases. Maintaining a strong program at CDC will be important in the efforts to reduce health care costs and protect citizens from disease outbreaks and health threats.
 - **CDC’s National Center For Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion** – While the American Lung Association appreciates the Senate L-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee’s efforts to improve the major chronic disease programs, we are concerned that the Senate-proposed Chronic Disease Block Grant will ultimately result in decreased funding for important initiatives, including the Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH). DASH provides funding for the Asthma Friendly Schools Initiative and other programs, and it is unclear how those important initiatives would be treated under a block grant.
 - **CDC’s Office of Smoking and Health (OSH)** – The American Lung Association supports the Senate L-HHS Appropriations Committee recommendations regarding the Office of Smoking and Health, including the \$107,214,000 funding level. In these recommendations, the Committee noted the importance of the Environmental Health Laboratory. The Committee also included \$55 million from the Prevention and Public Health Fund for a media campaign to prevent tobacco use in youth, and \$15 million of increased funding for quitlines. To complement the efforts of the quitlines, the Committee recommended \$20 million for a new demonstration program on providing expanded smoking cessation services to low-income and uninsured individuals.

Please take our recommendations into account, and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,



Charles D. Connor
President and CEO