

January 18, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Senate Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan, and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

As organizations committed to improving the public's health, we write to express our serious concern about the most recent continuing resolution, which cut \$750 million from the Prevention and Public Health Fund (Prevention Fund) and will put Americans at greater risk for illnesses, injuries and preventable deaths. This represents a 17 percent cut to the Prevention Fund over several years, including an 11 percent cut in fiscal year (FY) 2019. We ask you to reject any additional cuts to the Prevention Fund and restore this lost funding to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) by directing new resources made available by a broader budget agreement to raise the spending caps, or from savings due to the long-term reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), to the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related agencies (LHHS) 302(b) allocation.

The Prevention Fund currently comprises more than 12 percent of CDC's entire annual operating budget. The majority of the programs it funds are core public health programs that existed prior to the creation of the Prevention Fund. As a result, cuts to the Prevention Fund will translate into funding shortfalls in programs that states have long relied upon to keep their residents healthy and safe. Among these programs are the 317 immunization program that protects millions of Americans, public health laboratory grants to identify risks and prevent infectious diseases, the Preventive Health and Health Services (Prevent) Block Grant program which allows states the flexibility to address their most pressing health concerns, cancer screenings, chronic disease prevention and other critically important programs. The Prevention Fund represents 53 percent, 20 percent, and 100 percent of these critical programs' budgets, respectively.

Since FY 2010, CDC's budget authority has actually decreased by 11.4 percent (adjusted for inflation). This cut has occurred in spite of the growing and geographically disparate burden of largely preventable health threats such as the opioid epidemic and emerging infectious disease outbreaks such as the Zika virus.

CHIP, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), National Health Service Corps, the Special Diabetes Program and other important programs are critical to ensuring that Americans have access to health care and to improving equity in health outcomes. However, cutting CDC funding undermines the core missions of those programs, as CDC activities supported by the Prevention Fund work in concert with primary care providers to keep Americans healthy. These are separate and distinct sets of activities that work together to protect the health of Americans.

Programs funded through the LHHS appropriations bill, including public health, education, and job training programs funded with non-defense discretionary dollars, have been cut dramatically and disproportionately in recent years as Congress has worked to reduce spending. Yet experts across the political spectrum agree these programs are not a driving factor behind our nation's mid- and long term deficit challenges. The recent cut to the Prevention Fund further exacerbates these budget reductions. Instead of pitting CDC funding against other important health priorities, Congress should significantly increase its investment in CDC to ensure that we have the resources required to address the health challenges facing the nation.

Funding prevention not only saves lives but it saves money. A comprehensive study of evidence-based prevention programs found that every dollar invested yields \$5.60 in savings. Further cuts to public health funding will likely cause children and families to become sicker and our nation's health care costs to grow even faster. Congress must begin to reverse the trend of cutting CDC's budget and significantly increase investments in the agency to ensure the federal, state, and local public health professionals have the skills and resources they need to protect and further improve the health of the American people. As Congress works toward a budget agreement, we urge you to restore these cuts to CDC's budget to ensure that CDC maintains its ability to carry out its mission of saving lives and improving health.

Sincerely,

1,000 Days  
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
ADAP Advocacy Association  
Addiction Connections Resource  
Advocates for Better Children's Diets  
The AIDS Institute  
American Academy of Nursing  
American Association for Dental Research  
American Association for the Study of Liver  
Diseases  
American Association of Colleges of  
Pharmacy  
American Association on Health and  
Disability  
American College of Clinical Pharmacy

American College of Obstetricians and  
Gynecologists  
American Council on Exercise  
American Diabetes Association  
American Lung Association  
American Organization of Nurse Executives  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Society for Microbiology  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Tropical Medicine &  
Hygiene  
The Arizona Partnership for Immunization  
Arizona Public Health Association

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology  
Association of Accredited Public Health Programs  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of Public Health Laboratories  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Big Cities Health Coalition  
Black Women's Health Imperative  
Boulder County Public Health  
Brookline Public Health and Human Services  
California Academy of Family Physicians  
California Immunization Coalition  
California School Nurses Organization  
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids  
Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands  
Center for Science in the Public Interest  
Centralina Area Agency on Aging  
Chalk TalkScience Project  
ChangeLab Solutions  
Chicago Hispanic Health Coalition  
Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition (WA State)  
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder  
Children's Environmental Health Network  
Chinese American Service League  
Coalition for Health Funding  
Colorado School Medicaid Consortium  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc.  
Community Access National Network  
Community Health Council of Wyandotte County  
Connecticut Public Health Association  
Cook County Department of Public Health

Cooley's Anemia Foundation  
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists  
County Health Executives Association of California  
Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association  
Design 4 Active Sacramento  
Digestive Disease National Coalition  
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation  
Ehrens Consulting  
Endocrine Society  
Enhance Asian Community on Health  
Every Child By Two  
Evidence-Based Leadership Council  
Foundation for Healthy Generations  
Friends of National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities  
GBS|CIDP Foundation International  
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative  
Health Promotion Advocates  
Health Resources in Action  
Healthcare Ready  
Healthy Communities Wyandotte  
Healthy Living Cape cod  
Healthy Teen Network  
HIV Medicine Association  
Hogg Foundation for Mental Health  
Idaho Public Health Association  
Immunization Action Coalition  
Immunize Nevada  
Improving Kids' Environment  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
Institute for Public Strategies  
Interstitial Cystitis Association  
Iowa Public Health Association  
Jeffrey Modell Foundation  
Joy-Southfield Community Development Corporation  
Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center  
Lakeshore Foundation  
LiveWell Luzerne

Local Public Health Association of  
Minnesota  
Los Angeles County Department of Public  
Health  
The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health  
Louisiana Public Health Association  
Maine Public Health Association  
MaineHealth  
March of Dimes  
The Marfan Foundation  
Marshfield Clinic Health System  
Maximizing Adolescent Potential Program  
Minnesota Childhood Immunization  
Coalition  
Mississippi Public Health Association  
MJH Grant Consulting  
Monona County Public Health  
National Alliance of State & Territorial  
AIDS Directors  
National Alopecia Areata Foundation  
National Association of Chronic Disease  
Directors  
National Association of County & City  
Health Officials  
National Association of State Emergency  
Medical Services Officials  
National Birth Defects Prevention Network  
National Blood Clot Alliance  
National Coalition of STD Directors  
National Coalition on Health Care  
National Committee for Quality Assurance  
National Consumers League  
National Council of Asian Pacific Islander  
Physicians  
National Council on Aging  
National Foundation for Infectious Diseases  
National Minority AIDS Council  
National Network of Public Health Institutes  
National Physicians Alliance  
National Prevention Science Coalition  
National Recreation and Park Association  
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable  
National WIC Association

NephCure Kidney International  
Nevada Public Health Association  
New Hampshire Public Health Association  
New Jersey Public Health Association  
North American Quitline Consortium  
North Carolina Alliance for Health  
Oasis Institute  
Ohio Public Health Association  
Oregon Public Health Association  
Parents of Kids with Infectious Diseases  
Partners in Care Foundation  
Pediatric Nurse Practitioner House Calls  
Peggy Lillis Foundation  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Polk County Health Department  
Prevent Blindness  
The Prevent Cancer Foundation  
Prevention Institute  
Primary Care Development Corporation  
Public Health Foundation  
Public Health Institute  
Public Health Institute of Western MA  
Pulmonary Fibrosis Advocates  
Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
Research!America  
Respiratory Health Association  
Rural AIDS Action Network  
Safe Routes to School National Partnership  
Safe States Alliance  
Scleroderma Foundation  
SHAPE America - Society of Health and  
Physical Educators  
Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation  
Sleep Research Society  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of  
America  
South Carolina Tobacco-Free Collaborative  
Spondylitis Association of America  
Sumner M Redstone Global Center for  
Prevention and Wellness  
Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department  
Treatment Action Group

Trust for America's Health  
United States Breastfeeding Committee  
US Hereditary Angioedema Association  
Voices for Vaccines  
WalkBoston  
Washington State Association of Local  
Public Health Officials  
Wisconsin Public Health Association  
Wolfson Wellness  
Wyoming Pathways