

November 19, 2014

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Harold P. Wimmer

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The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski and Chairman Rogers:

Thank you for your leadership of the fiscal year 2015 (FY15) appropriations process. The American Lung Association respectfully urges you to finalize the FY15 spending bills before the end of the calendar year. As you and the members of the Appropriations Conference Committee work to achieve this, the Lung Association also asks you to support funding for programs that will promote lung health and reduce lung disease, and to oppose policy riders in the appropriations bills. Below are specific recommendations and concerns of the American Lung Association.

**The American Lung Association respectfully requests that the final agreement be free of any legislative riders.** It is important that any final agreement reached by the Committee focuses on appropriations issues and does not include any legislative riders that would impact the lifesaving work of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration or the Environmental Protection Agency would jeopardize public health.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- **Provide \$29.528 million for CDC's National Asthma Control Program (NACP)** as recommended in the FY15 Senate draft Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (L-HHS) bill. This funding level is an increase of \$2 million over FY14 and would allow NACP to fund additional states for carrying out programmatic activity. As of September 2014, 13 previously funded states were approved but did not receive grants from NACP due to funding cuts from Congress. These 13 de-funded states include Maryland, Kentucky and Alabama.
- **Provide \$225.492 million for CDC's Office of Smoking and Health (OSH)** as recommended in the FY15 Senate draft L-HHS bill. Tobacco cessation and prevention activities are among the most effective and cost-effective investments in disease prevention.

**Advocacy Office:**

1301 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20004  
Ph: 202-785-3355 F: 202-452-1805

**National Office:**

55 W. Wacker Drive, Suite 1150 | Chicago, IL 60601  
Ph: 312-801-7630 F: 202-452-1805 Info@Lung.org

- **Provide \$8.632 million for CDC's Environmental Health – Climate Change** as recommended in the FY15 Senate draft L-HHS bill. This program helps prepare communities to address the health effects of climate change. As climate-related challenges intensify, CDC must have increased resources to meet the challenge.
- **Transfer \$927 million from the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPH Fund) in the manner identified in the FY15 Senate draft L-HHS bill.** The PPH Fund is crucial for financing proven and effective public health and wellness programs and the American Lung Association supports full funding and appropriate allocation to prevention programs, including the powerfully successful Tips from Former Smokers" ad campaign.

#### Environmental Protection Agency

- **Fully fund the State and Local Air Quality Management Grants to States at \$228.219 million** as recommended in the FY15 House and Senate Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies (Int/Env) Appropriations bills. This funding is level with the FY14 appropriation. State agencies are on the front lines of vital efforts to improve air quality and protect public health.
- **Provide \$103.297 million for EPA's Environmental Program and Management Compliance and \$244.499 million for Enforcement** as recommended in the FY15 Senate draft Int/Env bill.
- **Provide \$30 million for the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act grants (DERA)** as recommended in the FY15 House Int/Env bill. Approximately 20 million old diesel engines are in use today that pollute communities and threaten workers. The DERA program is important to reducing diesel emissions.
- **Provide \$8.051 million for the Radon Program** as recommended in the FY15 House and Senate Int/Env bills. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States, and the EPA's State Indoor Radon Grants are the only nationwide program that helps prevent exposure to it. States and tribes depend on this program to educate the public and fight this deadly carcinogen.

#### National Institutes of Health

- **Provide \$30.631 million for the National Institutes of Health (NIH)** as recommended in the FY15 House Democratic L-HHS bill. The American Lung Association strongly supports increased funding for NIH research on the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cures for all lung diseases including lung cancer, asthma, COPD and tuberculosis. Lung cancer remains the leading cancer killer in the United States and while deaths among men have plateaued, the number is still rising among women.

The above programs have a great impact on preventing lung disease and improving lung health. The programs are cost-effective investments in public health and the American Lung Association urges the Conference Committee to continue to provide strong funding support for these programs. On behalf of the almost 34 million Americans with lung disease, I thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Harold Wimmer  
National President and CEO

Cc: Appropriations Conference Committee

