



June 23, 2020

Dear Senator/Representative:

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. Lung disease is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States and lung cancer is the leading cancer killer among women. Nearly 25 million people, including six million children, suffer from asthma. The nation is making progress to combat this toll, but this advancement can only continue with sustained investment.

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the need for significantly more robust and sustained investments in our nation's public health infrastructure, especially at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as programs that respond to public health emergencies. For years, the American Lung Association requested robust funding for CDC, and the importance of that investment has become quite evident. We, therefore, reiterate our ask that the fiscal year 2021 investment at CDC be increased to at least \$8.3 billion in addition to the requested funding to respond to the current pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also highlighted the importance of preventing and managing chronic lung conditions. Individuals living with lung disease and those who face long-term exposure to dangerous air pollution are among the most at risk of serious health complications as a result of COVID-19. The Lung Association recognizes the tremendous challenge Congress faces in responding to COVID-19 and urges continued investment in CDC programs that help smokers quit, promote asthma control, support prevention and treatment of other lung diseases, including COPD and lung cancer, and prepare for the health impacts created by a warming climate.

The American Lung Association also asks for your leadership in opposing all policy riders that would weaken key lung health protections, including those in the Clean Air Act and the Tobacco Control Act. Policy riders have no place in appropriations bills and the Lung Association strongly opposes attempts to include them, especially riders that would make it harder to protect Americans from air pollution and children from tobacco products.

The American Lung Association thanks Congress for its previous support for key lung health programs and its efforts to address this devastating pandemic. Please contact Liz Mueller ([Liz.Mueller@Lung.org](mailto:Liz.Mueller@Lung.org) or 202-481-7668) for any questions about our Interior-Environment bill requests or Melanie Buzzelli ([Melanie.Buzzelli@Lung.org](mailto:Melanie.Buzzelli@Lung.org) or 202-715-1865) for questions about any of the other requests.

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harold Wimmer".

Harold P. Wimmer  
National President and CEO

**American Lung Association Appropriations Priorities  
Fiscal Year 2021**

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies  
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
Defense

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**FY21 L-HHS Appropriations Priorities**

The American Lung Association strongly supports continued federal investments in key public health and biomedical research activities. For FY21, the Lung Association encourages Congress to take a balanced approach in its increases for these agencies and would urge the Congress to make significant investments in public health programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**Provide \$8.3 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

CDC is faced with unprecedented challenges and responsibilities ranging from combating the tobacco epidemic to protecting the public from the health impacts of climate change to addressing diseases such as asthma, COPD and lung cancer. The American Lung Association strongly supports the CDC Coalition's request of \$8.3 billion for CDC for FY21.

**Provide \$310 million for CDC's Office of Smoking and Health (OSH)**

E-cigarette use continues to increase among our nation's youth and now 1 in 3 high school students uses at least one tobacco product. The American Lung Association is grateful for the \$20 million increase in funding for OSH in FY20 and asks for an additional \$80 million for FY21. OSH is the lead federal agency for tobacco prevention and control. It works closely with state and local governments to ensure best practices for preventing youth use of tobacco products and promoting evidence-based methods to help smokers quit.

Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States and costs the U.S. over \$332 billion in healthcare costs and lost productivity. As such, support for tobacco cessation and prevention activities is among the most effective and cost-effective investments in disease prevention. The Office on Smoking and Health also created the "Tips from Former Smokers" Campaign, which has prompted 500,000 Americans to successfully quit smoking and even more smokers making quit attempts on their own or with the assistance of their physicians. This increased appropriation request level will also allow the "Tips" campaign to continue running for approximately half a year and will provide funding for states and state quit lines.

**Provide \$15 million for CDC's Climate and Health Program**

CDC's Climate and Health Program is the only HHS program devoted to identifying the risks and developing effective responses to the health impacts of climate change, including worsening air pollution; diseases that emerge in new areas; stronger and longer heat waves; and more frequent and severe droughts and wildfires, and provides guidance to states in adaptation. Pilot projects in 16 states and two city health departments use CDC's Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) framework to develop and implement health adaptation plans and address gaps in critical public health functions and services. As climate-related challenges continue to intensify, CDC must have increased resources to support states and cities in meeting the challenge, both to expand the number of funded projects and to evaluate best practices and lessons learned from the current programs.

**Provide \$34.0 million for CDC's National Asthma Control Program (NACP)**

The Lung Association thanks Congress for the additional \$1 million appropriation in FY20, which will result in an additional state receiving funding to combat asthma. It is estimated that 25.6 million Americans currently have asthma, of whom 6.1 million are children. The NACP tracks asthma prevalence, promotes asthma control and prevention and builds capacity in state programs. This program has been highly effective: the rate of asthma has increased, yet asthma mortality and morbidity rates

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Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies  
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Defense

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have decreased. At present, 24 states and Puerto Rico receive funding. Additional funding in FY21 would allow additional states to be funded to implement these lifesaving programs.

**Establish a line-item program for Chronic Disease Education and Awareness at CDC and Provide an Initial Investment of \$5 Million in Funding**

In FY20, the House created a new line for chronic disease education and awareness within CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. This additional line will allow CDC to respond to chronic diseases – including COPD, the nation's 4<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death – that do not have stand-alone programs. This will help facilitate key COPD activities from the *National COPD Action Plan*.

**Provide \$44.7 Billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

Research supported by NIH has been instrumental in the fight to identify the causes of and effective treatments for lung diseases. The American Lung Association supports increased funding for NIH research on the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cures for tobacco use and all lung diseases including lung cancer, asthma, COPD, pulmonary fibrosis, influenza and tuberculosis. The Lung Association also supports robust funding increases for the individual institutes within NIH, recognizing the need for research funding increases to ensure the pace of research is maintained across NIH. We specifically request an additional \$25 million for the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute to combat COPD. The Lung Association also strongly supports increased funding for lung cancer research in addition to our support for the Cancer Moonshot and the All of Us Program.

**FY21 Interior-Environment Appropriations Priorities**

**Provide \$469 million for EPA's Clean Air program**

EPA's work to protect people from the impacts of air pollution saves lives and improves health, especially for populations most at risk, including those with asthma and other lung diseases; children; older adults; people living in low-income communities; people who work, exercise or play outdoors; and people with heart disease and diabetes. Funds under this program are used in part to assist states, tribes, and local air pollution control agencies in the administration of programs and standards to protect the air we breathe. States have the primary responsibility for developing clean air measures necessary to meet federal standards but rely on support and assistance from EPA to create effective comprehensive air quality management programs. This program also includes testing and oversight to ensure vehicles don't add unlawful amounts of pollution into the air, and efforts to reduce carbon pollution, methane, and other climate pollutants to protect public health from the impacts of climate change. Please provide \$341 million for Environmental Programs and Management and \$128 million for Science and Technology. Within this program area, the Lung Association specifically requests \$115.9 million for the Climate Protection Program; \$171 million for Federal Support for Air Quality Management; and \$103.6 million for Federal Vehicle Fuels Standards and Certifications Programs.

**Provide \$324.5 million for Categorical Grants: State and Local Air Quality Management and Tribal Air Quality Management**

State, local and tribal air pollution agencies need more funding, not less, to ensure proper protection of the public through implementation of the Clean Air Act. These agencies are on the front lines of vital efforts to improve air quality and protect public health, yet they are perennially underfunded. This must change in order to secure the benefits promised by Clean Air Act protections. The additional funding would allow local agencies to add and upgrade air monitors and improve engagement with the public to



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Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
Defense

---

protect their health. Please provide \$310 million for State and Local Air Quality Management and \$14.5 million for Tribal Air Quality Management.

**Provide \$100 million for the Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant Program (DERA)**

Millions of old, dirty diesel engines are in use today that pollute communities and threaten workers. Immense opportunities remain to reduce diesel emissions through the DERA program. The Committee's continued investments in this program have yielded up to \$13 in health benefits for every \$1 spent, according to a 2016 EPA report. Please provide at least \$100 million in FY21.

**Provide \$8 million for the Categorical Grant: Radon and \$3.3 million for EPA's Radon Program**

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. EPA's radon program, in concert with EPA's State Indoor Radon Grants, are the only nationwide tools that help prevent exposure to it. States and tribes depend on these programs to educate the public and fight this deadly carcinogen. In 2003, the National Academy of Sciences estimated that radon kills 21,000 people each year. Please provide \$8 million for the categorical grants to radon and \$3.3 million for EPA's radon program, which includes \$3.1 million for Environmental Program and Management and \$158,000 for Science and Technology.

**Provide \$111.3 million for EPA's Compliance Monitoring & \$268.1 million for Enforcement.**

EPA's air quality standards mean nothing if they are not enforced. Continued investment in EPA's monitoring and enforcement work is critical to keeping the cop on the beat when it comes to protecting the public from dangerous air pollution. EPA must have the ability and funding needed to reduce non-compliance, as well as enforce penalties for violations. EPA must also be prepared to respond to civil enforcement actions authorized by the Clean Air Act.

**Provide \$15 million for new programs to protect Americans from wildfire smoke**

Wildfires are no longer a rare occurrence, making wildfire smoke an urgent and increasing threat to health. EPA needs additional resources to protect the public from this source of dangerous air pollution. The Lung Association requests a total of \$15 million in funding to address these impacts, including \$5 million to establish Wildfire Smoke Health Centers in Collaboration with US Forest Service Missoula Fire Sciences Laboratory; \$7 million for targeted research on wildfire smoke exposure and policy; and \$3 million for EPA to coordinate interagency science, management and communication strategies for addressing wildfires.

**FY21 Agriculture-FDA Appropriations Priorities**

**Appropriate the \$712 million in authorized user fees for the Center for Tobacco Products**

FDA's activities to protect our nation's youth and the public health from tobacco products is entirely paid for by user fees. The American Lung Association strongly supports full appropriation of these authorized user fees, and strongly opposes any riders that would weaken or take away FDA's authority over cigars, or any riders that would grandfather in all e-cigarettes or cigars. The Lung Association also strongly supports FDA's "The Real Cost" Campaign, which according to a 2017 study, has prevented approximately 350,000 of our nation's youth from starting to smoke.

The American Lung Association supports increasing user fees for the Center for Tobacco Products to \$812 million and ensuring an annual increase tied to inflation. The Lung Association also supports requiring e-cigarette manufacturers to pay user fees.

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Defense

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**FY21 Transportation-Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Priorities**

**Provide \$290 million for Office of Lead Hazard and Healthy Homes and designate \$56 million for the Healthy Homes Initiative**

The Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Office of Lead Hazard and Healthy Homes plays a vital role in improving the lung health of public and other types of housing under HUD. Currently, public housing authorities are continuing to implement the smokefree housing rule that will protect the two million public housing authority residents, including 760,000 children, from the dangers of secondhand smoke in their homes. Improving air quality by eliminating toxins like secondhand smoke and mold will improve the lung health of all public housing residents. Public housing authorities are also actively work to fight the second leading cause of lung cancer in homes—radon.

**FY21 Department of Defense Appropriations Priorities**

**Provide \$20.0 million for Lung Cancer Research in the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs**

The peer-reviewed lung cancer research program is an important part of the federal lung cancer research portfolio. For a variety of service-connected reasons, lung cancer continues to pose a notable threat to military personnel. The peer-reviewed lung cancer research program is facilitating both ongoing and emerging activities that advance scientific understanding of lung cancer in meaningful ways and lead to improvements in health and wellness.

Thank you for your consideration of our FY21 funding recommendations. Again, we ask for your opposition to all policy riders that would weaken key lung health protections.

