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September 29, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of the American Lung Association, I write today to express my strong opposition to the Reconciliation Instructions proposed for consideration by the House Energy and Commerce Committee. As you know, the Instructions would, among other things, fully repeal and eliminate current and future funding for the Prevention and Public Health Fund (the Prevention Fund). The Lung Association has been a strong supporter of the Prevention Fund since its creation and has seen the life-saving benefits of this crucial funding. I urge you to oppose passage of the proposed Reconciliation Instructions – which would eliminate \$15.5 billion in future funding (FY16-FY25) for critical public health and prevention activities.

The Prevention Fund is intended to ensure a coordinated, comprehensive, sustainable, and accountable approach to improving our country's health outcomes through effective prevention and public health programs. For example, the Fund has been instrumental in maintaining and increasing support for evidenced-based chronic disease programs funded by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including programs that help kids and adults control their asthma, prevent kids from using tobacco, and improve the health of Americans with lung disease.

The Fund has made possible the highly successful *Tips from Former Smokers* cessation campaign, which encourages people to quit smoking by highlighting the toll that smoking-related illnesses take on smokers and their loved ones. According to a study published in *The Lancet*, during its first three months, the national ad campaign led an estimated 1.6 million

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smokers to attempt to quit smoking and helped more than 100,000 Americans quit smoking permanently. A recent study published in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* found that the *Tips* campaign prevented 17,109 premature deaths in the U.S.

Significantly reducing the Prevention Fund as the current Instructions propose would cause huge setbacks in public health in this country. Investment in public health is critical – it saves lives and saves money. Chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes, lung disease, heart disease, and stroke are now responsible for seven out of 10 deaths and account for 86 percent of health care spending in America. Cutting funding for prevention during budget reconciliation will lead to increases in healthcare spending in the future.

For all these reasons, the American Lung Association strongly urges you to oppose the Energy and Commerce Reconciliation Instructions and any other measures that reduce or eliminate the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harold Wimmer". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light gray rectangular background.

Harold P. Wimmer
National President and CEO

