

March 25, 2015

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services, Education, and  
Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20501

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services, Education, and  
Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services, Education, and  
Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20501

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services, Education, and  
Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Blunt and Cole and Ranking Members Murray and DeLauro:

Representing more than 200 national, state and local organizations dedicated to improving the health of all Americans, we write today in support of the Prevention and Public Health Fund (the Fund). We thank you for allocating the Fund in the last two appropriations cycles, and urge you to do so again in the Fiscal Year 2016 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Every American should have the opportunity to be as healthy as he or she can be. However, millions of Americans suffer from diseases that can be prevented by addressing common risk factors like tobacco use, poor nutrition, and physical inactivity. Chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes, lung disease, heart disease, and stroke are responsible for seven out of 10 deaths and \$1.3 trillion in treatment costs and lost productivity every year. Two-thirds of Americans are overweight or have obesity and nearly 20 percent of Americans smoke. Obesity costs the country \$147 billion and tobacco use leads to another \$130 billion in healthcare spending each year.

The Fund is the nation's largest single investment in prevention. Programs supported by the Fund take an innovative approach by supporting cross-sector, public-private partnerships and collaborations to improve health outcomes, reduce the chronic disease burden, and lower health costs. Since 2010, the Fund has provided \$5.25 billion to support state and local public health efforts to transform and revitalize communities, build epidemiology and laboratory capacity, track and respond to disease outbreaks, train the nation's public health and health care workforce, prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, expand access to vaccines, reduce tobacco use, and help control the obesity epidemic.

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).

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 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.

The Fund also supports the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant, which provides all 50 states, the District of Columbia, two American Indian tribes, and eight US territories with flexible funding to address their unique public health issues at the state and community level in innovative and locally-defined ways. Grantees have the flexibility to use funds to respond rapidly to emerging health issues and to fill funding gaps in programs that deal with leading causes of death and disability as well as support foundational capabilities of health departments. The Block Grant received \$160 million in Fiscal Years 2014-15 from the Fund.

In addition, the Section 317 Immunization Program plays a critical role in meeting national immunization coverage targets and reductions in disease. In Fiscal Year 2014, the Fund supported \$210.3 million of the total investment in Section 317 grants and expanded the program to help ensure that the right vaccines get to the right people at the right time to protect their health and the health of their communities and prevent resurgences of life-threatening diseases. Section 317 grants have also been key to building the immunization infrastructure, including registries, surveillance, outreach, and service delivery.

The Fund provides the first-ever, reliable national funding stream for public health, while creating jobs, bending the health-care cost curve, and prioritizing disease prevention. We urge the Committee to allocate the Fund again in Fiscal Year 2016, which will ensure it is allocated in a manner that will reduce health care costs and help create a long-term path to a healthier and economically sound America.

We look to your continued leadership in promoting the health of all Americans.

Sincerely,

A Partnership of Diabetics (MN)  
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
AcademyHealth  
Action for Healthy Food  
Advocates for Better Children's Diets  
AIDS United  
Alliance for a Just Society  
American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association of Colleges of  
Pharmacy  
American Association on Health and  
Disability  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action  
Network  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action  
Network, Minnesota

American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American College of Sports Medicine  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American Council on Exercise  
American Dental Education Association  
American Diabetes Association  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Heart Association  
American Lung Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Public Health Association  
American School Health Association  
American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery  
Arizona Public Health Association  
Asian American Health Coalition DBA HOPE Clinic (TX)  
Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Asian Health Coalition (IL)  
Asian Pacific Community in Action (AZ)  
Asian Services in Action (OH)  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved  
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs  
Association of Public Health Laboratories  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Autoimmune Advocacy Alliance (WA)  
Beach Cities Health District (CA)  
Behavioral Health and Wellness (WA)  
Big Cities Health Coalition  
Boston Public Health Commission  
California Public Health Association-North (CA)

Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids  
Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund  
Cardiovascular Research Foundation  
Center for Multicultural Health (WA)  
Center for Science in the Public Interest  
ChangeLab Solutions  
Chicago Hispanic Health Coalition  
Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition (WA)  
Children's Alliance (WA)  
CHOW Project (HI)  
Claire Heureuse Community Center, Inc (NY)  
ClearWay Minnesota  
Clinica Monseñor Oscar A. Romero (CA)  
Clinical Social Work Association  
Coalition for Health Funding  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service  
Community Access National Network  
Community Catalyst  
Council for the Homeless (WA)  
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists  
Dallas City Temple LiveWell (TX)  
Directors of Health Promotion and Education  
Doctors for America  
Dorchester County MD Health Department  
Ehrens Consulting (ND)  
Ethos (MA)  
EverThrive Illinois (IL)  
Families USA  
Fayette County Health Department (IN)  
Florida Public Health Association  
Foundation for Healthy Generations (WA)  
Georgia Public Health Association  
Hawaii Public Health Association  
Health Promotion Consultants  
Health Resources in Action  
Healthcare Leadership Council  
Healthy King County Coalition (WA)  
Healthy Schools Campaign  
Healthy Teen Network  
HIV Medicine Association  
Idaho Public Health Association

Illinois Public Health Association  
Illinois Public Health Institute  
Indiana Public Health Association  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
Iowa Public Health Association  
Irvine Community Drug Prevention (CA)  
Islamic Civic Engagement Project (WA)  
JPS Health Network (TX)  
Korean Community Services of  
Metropolitan New York  
Lakeshore Foundation  
League of Women Voters of Washington  
Light and Salt Association (TX)  
Los Angeles County Department of Public  
Health  
Louisiana Public Health Association  
Louisiana Public Health Institute  
LUK, Inc. (MA)  
Madison County Health Committee  
Chairman (IL)  
Maine Public Health Association  
March of Dimes  
Marshfield Clinic Health System (WI)  
Massachusetts Public Health Association  
Meals on Wheels America  
MEND Foundation  
MESA Public Health Associates  
Metropolitan Washington Public Health  
Association (DC)  
Michigan Public Health Association  
Michigan Public Health Institute  
Midwest Business Group on Health  
Minnesota Public Health Association  
Mississippi Public Health Association  
Missouri Association of Local Public Health  
Agencies  
Missouri Public Health Association  
Morehouse School of Medicine (GA)  
MPH Program Eastern Washington  
University (WA)  
National AHEC Organization  
National Alliance of State and Territorial  
AIDS Directors  
National Association for the Advancement  
of Colored People

National Association of Chronic Disease  
Directors  
National Association of Counties  
National Association of County and City  
Health Officials  
National Association of Hepatitis Task  
Forces  
National Association of State Alcohol and  
Drug Abuse Directors  
National Center for Healthy Housing  
National Coalition on Health Care  
National Coalition for Promoting Physical  
Activity  
National Council on Aging  
National Forum for Heart Disease and  
Stroke Prevention  
National Health Law Program  
National Network of Public Health Institutes  
National Physicians Alliance  
National Recreation and Park Association  
National Tongan American Society  
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable  
National WIC Association  
NEA Health Information Network  
Nemours Children's Health System  
Nevada Public Health Association  
New Hampshire Community Health Institute  
New Hampshire Public Health Association  
New Mexico Public Health Association  
New York State Association of County  
Health Officials  
North American Quitline Consortium  
North Carolina Public Health Association  
Northwest Health Law Advocates (WA)  
Obesity Action Coalition  
The Obesity Society  
Ohio Asian American Health Coalition  
Ohio Public Health Association  
Oklahoma Public Health Association  
Oral Health America  
Pennsylvania Public Health Association  
Physicians for a National Health Program,  
Western WA chapter  
Pierce County (WA)  
Prevent Blindness  
Prevent Cancer Foundation

Prevention Institute  
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses  
Association  
Public Health - Seattle and King County  
(WA)  
Public Health Association of Nebraska  
Public Health Foundation  
Public Health Institute  
Public Health Roundtable (WA)  
Public Health Solutions (NY)  
Puerto Rico Department of Health  
Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement  
Action (WA)  
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy  
Regional Asthma Management and  
Prevention (CA)  
Respiratory Health Association (IL)  
RiverStone Health (MT)  
Safe Routes to School National Partnership  
Safe States Alliance  
School of Acrobatics and New Circus Arts  
(WA)  
School Social Work Association of America  
School-Based Health Alliance  
Seattle National Organization for Women  
(WA)  
The Seneca Nation of Indians  
Small Business Majority  
Snohomish Health District (WA)  
Society for Public Health Education  
Society of Behavioral Medicine  
South Dakota Public Health Association  
Southern California Public Health  
Association  
Southwest Behavioral Health Mental Health  
Advisory Board (WA)

Special Needs Network  
Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department  
(WA)  
Taulama for Tongans (CA)  
Tennessee Public Health Association  
Texas Public Health Association  
Tongan American Youth Foundation (CA)  
Trust for America's Health  
United Church of Christ, Justice and  
Witness Ministries  
United Neighborhood Centers (PA)  
United States Breastfeeding Committee  
United Way Worldwide  
Vermont Public Health Association  
Virginia Public Health Association  
Washington CAN!  
Washington Global Health Alliance  
Washington NOW  
Washington State Association of Local  
Public Health Officials  
Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO  
Washington State Nurses Association  
Washington State Public Health Association  
Wellco  
Western North Carolina AIDS Project  
Wholesome Wave  
Wisconsin Medical Society  
WithinReach (WA)  
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for  
Women with Heart Disease  
Yale-Griffin Prevention Research Center  
(CT)  
YMCA of the USA

cc: Members of the Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies