

December 1, 2017

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

On behalf of the undersigned 86 organizations, we are writing to thank you for your continued support for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the FY 2018 appropriations process, specifically the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. We strongly urge your continued support through the conference by providing the higher program levels from either the House or Senate bills.

Our nation's leading causes of death and disability – heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, arthritis, epilepsy and others – place a disproportionate burden on American families and employers. These diseases are largely preventable and the associated complications from these chronic diseases are largely controllable, yet they remain the leading causes of death and disability. We need a sizeable investment in chronic disease prevention and control programs to bend the cost curve in healthcare spending.

As we look to FY 2019 funding decisions, we will continue to support sustained categorical funding for Diabetes, Heart Disease and Stroke, Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Prevention, Million Heart, and tobacco control programs operated through state health agencies in partnership with communities across America. We also encourage sustained funding for key cancer programs within the Center including breast & cervical, colorectal, prostate, ovarian, and skin cancer, registries, and cancer survivorship, along with Prevention Research Centers, Healthy Schools, REACH, Arthritis, Alzheimer's disease, epilepsy, lupus, and other health promotion programs.

We also will count on your continued leadership to maintain the existing funding mechanisms of the Chronic Center, which provide resources and technical expertise through state and local health departments, prevention research centers, national organizations, and local partner groups.

The size, scope and complexity of chronic diseases and subsequent disabilities has required substantial investments in research to help us better understand how to prevent and control these conditions. It is essential and fiscally responsible to translate evidence-based science advances and tools into programs in communities and real world settings.

The 86 organizations listed below, representing a broad spectrum of patients, public health and healthcare professionals and providers, strongly encourage you to continue to support these essential CDC programs and strategies that improve health for all Americans.

We thank you again for your leadership and support of public health, prevention, and health promotion.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
America Walks
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Sleep Medicine
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine

American Association on Health and Disability
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Cardiology
American Council on Exercise
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
American Liver Foundation
American Lung Association
American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery
American Thoracic Society
Aspen Valley Hospital
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools, Inc.
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
Cass County Health Clinic
Center for Science in the Public Interest
ChangeLab Solutions
Child Neurology Foundation
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation
Epilepsy Foundation
Erie County Department of Health
GBS|CIDP Foundation International
Georgia Watch
Golden Valley Health Centers
Health Resources in Action
Healthcare Leadership Council
Hefelfinger Consulting, Inc.
HIV Medicine Association
Hope for Hypothalamic Hamartomas
Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association
Intermountain Public Health Consulting, LLC
International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders
La Clinica de Familia, Inc.
Lake County General Health District
Lakeshore Foundation
Louisiana Cancer Prevention and Control Programs
METAvivor Research & Support, Inc.
Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare Germantown Outpatient Diabetes Services
National AHEC Organization
National Alopecia Areata Foundation
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of School Nurses
National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity

National Fitness Foundation
National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention
National WIC Association
NephCure Kidney International
Obesity Action Coalition
Obesity Medicine Association
Pacific Island Health Officers Association
Pediatric Congenital Heart Association
PFC Consulting, LLC
Prevent Blindness
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Prevention Research Center in St. Louis
ProVention Health Foundation
Public Health Institute
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Restless Legs Syndrome Foundation
Safe Routes to School National Partnership
Scleroderma Foundation
Sleep Research Society
Society for Public Health Education
South East American Indian Council Inc.
The Fulton DeKalb Hospital Authority
The Marfan Foundation
The Obesity Society
Trust for America's Health
United States Breastfeeding Committee
University of Illinois at Chicago
US Hereditary Angioedema Association
Women's Heart Alliance
Yale-Griffin Prevention Research Center
YMCA of the USA
YMCA-YWCA of Marshalltown, IA