

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