

January 9, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan, and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the 333 undersigned organizations, we are writing to warn of the dire consequences of repealing the Prevention and Public Health Fund (the Prevention Fund), authorized under the Affordable Care Act. Repealing the Prevention Fund without a corresponding increase in the allocation for the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education appropriations bill would leave a funding gap for essential public health programs, and could also foretell deep cuts for other critical programs funded in the bill.

Today, more than 12 percent of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) budget is supplied through Prevention Fund investments. This includes core public health programs that provide essential funds to help states keep communities healthy and safe, such as the 317 immunization program, epidemiology and laboratory capacity grants, the entire Preventive Health and Health Services (Prevent) Block Grant program, cancer screenings, chronic disease prevention and other critically important programs. For example, the Prevent Block Grant provides all 50 states, the District of Columbia, two American Indian tribes, and eight U.S. territories with flexible funding to address their unique public health issues at the state and community level.

Despite the growing and geographically disparate burden of largely preventable diseases, health threats such as the opioid epidemic, and emerging infectious disease outbreaks such as the Zika virus, federal disease prevention and public health programs remain critically underfunded. Public health spending is still below pre-recession levels, having remained relatively flat for years. The CDC's budget authority has actually decreased by 11.4 percent since FY 2010 adjusted for inflation, and the Prevention Fund has helped to make up the difference.

Discretionary programs, including public health, education, and job training programs funded through the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education (LHHS) appropriations spending bill have been cut dramatically and disproportionately in recent years as lawmakers have worked to reduce the deficit, even though experts across the political spectrum agree these programs are not

a driving factor behind our nation's mid- and long term fiscal challenges. Eliminating the Prevention Fund would be disastrous to the CDC budget and programs, and to the LHHS bill as a whole, leaving a nearly \$1 billion budget hole which would be impossible to fill under current discretionary spending caps.

Funding prevention not only saves lives but it saves money. A comprehensive study of evidence-based prevention programs found that every dollar invested yields \$5.60 in savings. There are many provisions of the Affordable Care Act aimed at promoting health and prevention, but the Prevention Fund is particularly important – a dedicated investment in prevention and public health activities to counteract the much larger bill – \$3.2 trillion and growing – we pay every year as a country to treat illness and disease.

We urge you to maintain funding made possible by the Prevention and Public Health Fund and safeguard funding for the CDC and other programs under the Labor-HHS-Education spending bill.

Sincerely,

Ability360

Academy of Geriatric physical therapy

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Action for Healthy Kids

Active Living By Design

Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research

ADAP Advocacy Association

Adult Congenital Heart Association

Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital

Advocates for Better Children's Diets

The AIDS Institute

AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta

AIDS United

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association for Dental Research

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine

American Association on Health and Disability

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American College of Cardiology

American College of Clinical Pharmacy

American College of Preventive Medicine

American Council on Exercise

American Diabetes Association

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

American Heart Association

American Lung Association

American Medical Student Association

American Organization of Nurse Executives

American Psychological Association

American Public Health Association

American School Health Association

American Sexual Health Association

American Society for Nutrition

American Society of Hematology

American STD Association

American Thoracic Society

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Foundation

The Arc

Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest

Arizona Health Care Association

Arizona Medical Association

The Arizona Partnership for Immunization
Arizona Public Health Association
Arizona Rural Health Association
Arkansas Public Health Association-
President
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health
Forum
Association for Clinical and Translational
Science
Association for Prevention Teaching and
Research
Association for Professionals in Infection
Control and Epidemiology
Association of Accredited Public Health
Programs
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Maternal & Child Health
Programs
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Reproductive Health
Professionals
Association of Schools and Programs of
Public Health
Association of State Public Health
Nutritionists
Association of University Centers on
Disabilities
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Atrius Health
Barnes ON THE MOVE Partnership
Big Cities Health Coalition
Boston Alliance for Community Health
Boston Senior Home Care
Boston University School of Public Health
Boulder County Public Health
Cambridge Health Alliance
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands
Canyon Ranch Center for Prevention &
Health Promotion
Cedar County Public Health
Center for Health and Learning

Center for Science in the Public Interest
Center in the Park
Central Jersey Family Health Consortium
Centralina Area Agency on Aging
Cerro Gordo County Department of Public
Health
Chalk Talk Science Project
ChangeLab Solutions
Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition of
Washington State
Children and Adults with Attention Deficit
Hyperactivity Disorder
The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of
America
City-County Health District
Clinical Research Forum
Coalition for Clinical and Translational
Science
Coalition for Health Funding
Coalition for Healthy School Food
Coconino County Public Health Services
District
College of Public Health and Human
Sciences, Oregon State University
Colorado Association of Local Public
Health Officials
Colorado Association of School Nurses
Colorado Children's Immunization Coalition
Colorado Public Health Association
Commissioned Officers Association of the
U.S. Public Health Service, Inc.
Community Access National Network
Community Clinic Consortium
Connecticut Directors of Health Association
Connecticut Public Health Association
Cooley's Anemia Foundation
Council for Diabetes Prevention
Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware
Public Health Association
Delaware County Office for the Aging
Denver Public Health
Des Ahrens Lactation Consulting
Digestive Disease National Coalition

Dignity Health
Directors of Health Promotion and
Education
Diversified Resources Group
Doctors for America
Dorchester County Health Department
Duxbury Council on Aging
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation
Early Impact Virginia
Ehrens Consulting
Elder Options
Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley, Inc.
Elder Services of Worcester Area, Inc.
Emory University
Endocrine Society
Enhance Asian Community on Health
Evidence-Based Leadership Council
Fairhill Partners
The Family Van
First in Families of North Carolina
The Food Trust
Foundation for Healthy Generations
Fund for Public Health in New York City
Futures Without Violence
Gallatin City-County Health Department
GBS|CIDP Foundation International
Global Liver Institute
Greater Holyoke YMCA
Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas
City
Health Connect of South Dakota
Health Resources in Action
Healthcare Ready
Healthy Communities Coalition
Healthy Living Cape Cod
Healthy Schools Campaign
Healthy Teen Network
Hemophilia Council of California
Hemophilia Foundation of Southern
California
Hepatitis Foundation International
Heritage Health and Housing
Hispanic Health Initiatives, Inc.

HIV Medicine Association
Home Care Alliance of MA
Idaho Public Health Association
Illinois Public Health Institute
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Institute of Social Medicine & Community
Health
Intermountain Public Health Consulting,
LLC
International Board of Lactation Consultant
Examiners
International Certification & Reciprocity
Consortium
International Foundation for Functional
Gastrointestinal Disorders
Interstitial Cystitis Foundation
Iowa Public Health Association
Jefferson County Public Health
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
Johns Hopkins University Institute for
Health and Productivity Studies
Joy-Southfield Community Development
Corp
Kalusugan Community Services
Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition
Kentucky Voices for Health
Kossuth County Public Health
La Alianza Hispana
Lakeshore Foundation
The Latino Health Insurance Program, Inc.
Latino Public Health Network at Hopkins
Lawrence-Douglas County Health
Department
Levine Senior Center
Local Public Health Association of
Minnesota
Los Angeles County Department of Public
Health
Louisiana Public Health Association
Lung Cancer Alliance
Maine Public Health Association
MaineHealth
March of Dimes

The Marfan Foundation
Maricopa County Department of Public Health
Maricopa Integrated Health System
Maryland Public Health Organization
Master Trainer
Matter of Balance
Meals on Wheels and Senior
Mennin Consulting and Associates
Mental Health America of Arizona
METAvivor
Metropolitan Area Planning Council
Michigan Breastfeeding Network
MIKE Program
Minnesota Public Health Association
Mississippi Public Health Association
Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging
MJH Grant Consulting
Montana Primary Care Association
Montana Public Health Association
Montrose County School District
Morehouse School of Medicine
Mother & Child Health Coalition
My Brother's Keeper
NAPHSIS: National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems
National AHEC Organization
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors
National Alopecia Areata Foundation
National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Association of Counties
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of Social Workers
National Birth Defects Prevention Network
National Blood Clot Alliance
National Coalition of STD Directors

The National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc
The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care
National Council for Behavioral Health
National Council on Aging
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Foundation for Infectious Diseases
National Healthy Start Association
National Hemophilia Foundation
National Latino Network of Casa de Esperanza
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Prevention Science Coalition
National Recreation and Park Association
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
National WIC Association
Native Health
Nemours Children's Health System
NephCure Kidney International
Nevada Public Health Association
New England Wellness Foundation
New Jersey Public Health Association
New Mexico Public Health Association
Newington Senior and Disabled Center
NIRSA: Leaders in Collegiate Recreation
NJ YMCA State Alliance
North American Quitline Consortium
North Carolina Alliance for Health
Nurse of South Carolina
OASIS Institute
Ohio Public Health Association
Oklahoma Public Health Association
Olympic Area Agency on Aging
On the Move, a Community Public Health Partnership
Oregon Public Health Association
Oregon State University
Partners for a Healthier Community
Partners in Care Foundation
PATHS Education Worldwide

Peer Health Exchange
Philly Breastfeeds
Presence Mercy Medical Center Health Institute
Prevent Blindness
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Prevention Institute
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Project Mend-A-House
Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition
Public Health Advocates
Public Health Association of Nebraska
Public Health Association of New York City
Public Health Foundation
Public Health Institute
Pulmonary Fibrosis Advocates
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
PureView Health Center
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Research!America
Respiratory Health Association
Retrofit
RiverStone Health
Rural AIDS Action Network
Safe Kids Worldwide
Safe Routes to School National Partnership
Safe States Alliance
School-Based Health Alliance
The Scleroderma Foundation
Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County
Self-Management Resource Center
Senior Citizen Services of Greater Tarrant County, Inc.
Senior Resources
Senior Resources - Agency on Aging
Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia
SeniorsPlus
Shoals Community Clinic
Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Honor Society
Sleep Research Society

Society for Public Health Education
Society of Behavioral Medicine
The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
Society of State Leaders of Health and Physical Education
South Alabama Regional Planning Commission
South Carolina Tobacco-Free Collaborative
Southeast Ohio Breastfeeding Coalition
Southern California Public Health Association
Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative
Southwest Human Development, Inc.
Spina Bifida Association
Spokane Shrinking Violet Society
Stewart Memorial Community Hospital
Sumner M. Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness, George Washington University
Susan G. Komen
Tennessee Public Health Association
Think Bicycles of Johnson County
Treatment Action Group
Tri County Health Department
Trust for America's Health
U.S. Hereditary Angioedema Association
United States Breastfeeding Committee
United Way of Tarrant County, TX
Valley Program for Aging Services
Vermont Public Health Association
VillageCare
Virginia Public Health Association
WalkBoston
Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials
The Wall Las Memorias Project
Washington State Public Health Association
Wellness Institute of Greater Buffalo
Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging
Western North Carolina AIDS Project
Wholesome Wave
Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA

Winneshiek County Board of Health
Wisconsin Public Health Association
Within Reach
Wolfson Wellness
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for
Women with Heart Disease
Youngstown State University