March 3, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

On behalf of the more than 500 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,

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Ability360
Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Action for Healthy Kids (AFHK)
Active Living By Design
Active Transportation Alliance
Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research
ADAP Advocacy Association (aaa+)
Addiction Connections Resource
Adult Congenital Heart Association
Advancement Project California
Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital
Advocates for Better Children's Diets
African American Health Alliance
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families
The AIDS Institute
AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta
AIDS United
Allamakee County Public Health
American Academy of HIV Medicine
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Dental Research
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of Naturopathic Physicians
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 College of Sports Medicine
American Council on Exercise
American Diabetes Association
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
American Heart Association
American Immunization Registry Association
American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian APHA Caucus
The American Academy of HIV Medicine
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 Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene
American STD Association
American Thoracic Society
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Foundation
APICAT for Healthy Communities
APLA Health
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
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Asian Services In Action
Association for Clinical and Translational Science
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges
Association of Accredited Public Health Programs
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Montana Public Health Officials
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals
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
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Atrius Health
Authority Health
Barnes ON THE MOVE Partnership
Behavioral Health Leadership Institute
Benzie Leelanau District Health Department (Benzonia, MI)
Berean Wellness & Community Support Center
Big Cities Health Coalition
Boston Alliance for Community Health
Boston Public Health Commission
Boston Senior Home Care
Boston University School of Public Health
Boulder County Public Health
The Bronx Health Link
Bronx Health REACH
California Public Health Association-North
California WIC Association
California WIC Association
Cambridge Health Alliance
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
Camptonville Community Partnership
Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands
Canyon Ranch Center for Prevention & Health Promotion
Cedar County Public Health
Center for Behavioral Epidemiology & Community Health
Center for Health and Learning
Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Center in the Park
Central California Asthma Collaborative
Central Jersey Family Health Consortium
Central Michigan District Health Department
Central Michigan Regional Rural Health Network
Centralina Area Agency on Aging
Centro Multicultural La Familia
Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health
Chalk Talk Science Project
ChangeLab Solutions
Chicago Commons
Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition (WA State)
Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD)
Children's Environmental Health Network
Children's Health Fund
Children's Mental Health Network
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
Healthcare Ready
Healthy Communities Coalition
Healthy Living Cape Cod
Healthy Oxford Hills
Healthy Schools Campaign
Healthy Teen Network
Healthy Weight Partnership
Hemophilia Council of California
Hemophilia Foundation of Southern California
Hepatitis B Foundation
Hepatitis Foundation International
Heritage Health and Housing
Hispanic Health Initiatives, Inc.
HIV Medicine Association
HLN Consulting, LLC
Hogg Foundation for Mental Health
Home Care Alliance of MA
Human Impact Partners
Idaho Public Health Association
Idaho Walk Bike Alliance
Illinois Public Health Institute
Immunize Nevada
Indiana Public Health Association
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Institute for Community & Collaborative Health
Institute for Health and Productivity Studies, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
Institute for Public Health Innovation
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
International Society for Disease Surveillance
International Valley Health Institute
Interstitial Cystitis Foundation
Iowa Public Health Association
Jefferson County Public Health
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
John Peter Smith Health Network
Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security
Johns Hopkins University Institute for Health and Productivity Studies
Joy-Southfield Community Development Corp
Kalusungan Community Services
Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition
Kentucky Voices for Health
Khmer Health Advocates
Kossuth County Public Health
La Alianza Hispana
Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center
Lakeshore Foundation
The Latino Health Insurance Program, Inc.
Latino Public Health Network at Hopkins
Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education & Policy, Teachers College Columbia University
Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department
League of American Bicyclists
Levine Senior Center
LiveWell Longmont
Local Public Health Association of Minnesota
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health
Louisiana Public Health Association
Louisiana Public Health Institute
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 Partnership for Prevention
Maryland Public Health Organization
Massachusetts Public Health Association
Master Trainer
Matter of Balance
Meals on Wheels and Senior
Meharry Medical College
Men's Health Caucus
Mennin Consulting and Associates
Mental Health America of Arizona
METAvivor
Metropolitan Area Planning Council
Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force
Michigan Association for Local Public Health
Michigan Breastfeeding Network
MIKE Program
Minneapolis Health Department
Minnesota Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Minnesota Public Health Association
Mississippi Public Health Association
Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging
MJH Grant Consulting
Monona County Public Health
Montana Primary Care Association
Montana Public Health Association
Montgomery County Health Department
Montrose County School District
Morehouse School of Medicine
Mother & Child Health Coalition
My Brother's Keeper, Inc.
NAATPN, Inc.
NAPHSIS: National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems
Nashville CARES
National AHEC Organization
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors
National Alopecia Areata Foundation
National Association for Health and Fitness
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 Birth Equity Collaborative
National Blood Clot Alliance
National Center for Disaster Preparedness
National Center for Health Care
The National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc
National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Coalition on Health Care
National Collaborative for Health Equity
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 Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention
National Foundation for Infectious Diseases
National Healthy Start Association
National Hemophilia Foundation
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Institute for Children's Health Quality
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
The National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable
National WIC Association
Native Health
NC SOPHE Advocacy Committee
Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors
Nemours Children's Health System
NephCure Kidney International
Nevada Public Health Association
New England Kidney International
New England Wellness Foundation
New Jersey Public Health Association
New Mexico Public Health Association
The New York Academy of Medicine
New York State Association of County Health Officials
Newington Senior and Disabled Center
NICHQ (National Institute for Children's Health Quality)
NIRSA: Leaders in Collegiate Recreation
NJ YMCA State Alliance
North American Quitline Consortium
North Carolina Alliance for Health
North Carolina Society of Public Health Education
Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium
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
Origins FTD, Inc.
Partners for a Healthier Community
Partners in Care Foundation
PATHS Education Worldwide
Peer Health Exchange
Peggy Lillis Foundation
Personal Assistance Services Council
Philly Breastfeeds
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Presence Mercy Medical Center Health Institute
Prevent Blindness
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Prevention Institute
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Primary Care Development Corporation
Primary Care Medicine & Public Health Synergy
Prism Health North Texas
Project Inform
Project Mend-A-House
Promoting Healthy Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition
Public Health Advocates
Public Health Association of Nebraska
Public Health Association of New York City
Public Health Delta & Menominee Counties
Public Health Foundation
Public Health Institute
Public Health Solutions
Pulmonary Fibrosis Advocates
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
PureView Health Center
Quality Home Care Services
Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Region 9 Education Cooperative
Research!America
Respiratory Health Association
Retrofit
RiverStone Health
Rural AIDS Action Network
Rural Center for AIDS/STD Prevention at the IU School of Public Health Bloomington
S2AY Rural Health Network, Inc.
Sacramento Black Child Development Institute
Safe and Healthy Communities
Safe Kids Worldwide
Safe Routes to School National Partnership
Safe States Alliance
Saint Anthony Hospital
Salud de Paloma
Sarah Samuels Center for Public Health Research & Evaluation
School-Based Health Alliance
Scleroderma Foundation
SCP Partners
Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County
Self-Management Resource Center
Senior Citizen Services of Greater Tarrant County Inc.
Senior Resources - Agency on Aging
Senior Services of Snohomish County
Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia
SeniorsPlus
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S
Shelby County Schools Coordinated School Health
Shoals Community Clinic
Sickle Cell Disease Association/PDVC
Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Honor Society
Sleep Research Society
Society for Public Health Education
Society for the Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR)
The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
Society of Behavioral Medicine
South Alabama Regional Planning Commission
South Carolina Tobacco-Free Collaborative
Southeast Ohio Breastfeeding Coalition
Southern California Public Health Association
Southern California Society for Public Health Education
Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative (SASI)
Southwest Human Development, Inc.
SparksInitiatives
Spina Bifida Association
Spokane Shrinking Violet Society
St Clair County Health Department
Stewart Memorial Community Hospital
Sumner M. Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness, George Washington University
Susan G. Komen
Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
Tennessee Public Health Association
Think Bicycles of Johnson County
Three Rivers district Home Health
Thrive At Life: Working Solutions
Tomorrow Matters!
Training Resources Network, Inc.
Treatment Action Group
Tri County Health Department (Greenwood, CO)
Trust for America's Health
Tuscola County Health Department
U.S. Hereditary Angioedema Association
United States Breastfeeding Committee
United Way of Tarrant County, TX
Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio
The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
Utah Public Health Association
Valley Program for Aging Services
Vermont Public Health Association
VillageCare
Virginia Public Health Association
Walk San Francisco
WalkBoston
The Wall Las Memorias Project
Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO)
Washington State Public Health Association
Wayne State University Center for Health and Community Impact
Wellco
WellGiG
Wellness Institute of Greater Buffalo
West Valley Neighborhoods Coalition
Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging
Western North Carolina AIDS Project
Wholesome Wave
Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA
Winnebago County Board of Health
Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging
Wisconsin Public Health Association
WithinReach
Wolfson Wellness
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease
The Women's Caucus
YCat Yoga Therapy & Jnani Chapman's Integrative Medicine Service
Youngstown State University