

March 17, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harkin
United States Senate
731 Hart SOB
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thomas Carper
United States Senate
513 Hart SOB
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Doris Matsui
U.S. House of Representatives
222 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney
U.S. House of Representatives
2332 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ellen Tauscher
U.S. House of Representatives
2459 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Wu
U.S. House of Representatives
2338 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Harkin & Carper and Representatives Matsui, Tauscher, Maloney & Wu:

We the undersigned would like to thank you for sponsoring the *Complete Streets Act of 2009*. This legislation complements state and local efforts across the country to ensure that all users of the transportation system, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users, as well as children, older individuals, and individuals with disabilities, are able to travel safely and conveniently on streets and highways.

As you know, nearly two-thirds of American adults are overweight or obese, and approximately 23 million children in the U.S. are overweight or obese. Physical inactivity, coupled with unhealthy eating habits, is a major driver of the current obesity epidemic. More than half of the U.S. adult population does not meet the recommended daily physical activity guidelines, while a quarter of U.S. adults report being completely inactive.

One major obstacle to physical activity is concern about safety. For example, the number of children walking to and from school has declined dramatically over the past 40 years, from 48 percent of students in 1969 to 16 percent of students in 2001. Parents frequently list traffic safety concerns as a top reason that their children do not walk or bike to school. Governments and communities that address traffic safety concerns can promote healthier living by enabling all users to safely move along and across a complete street.

By completing the streets, we encourage active, healthy living by making non-motorized transportation modes safe options. We can also help reduce congestion and reduce vehicle emissions which can be harmful to our health. We appreciate your leadership in introducing this legislation and look forward to working with you on this and other public health initiatives in the future.

Sincerely,

American College of Clinical Pharmacy
American College of Preventive Medicine

American Council on Exercise
American Public Health Association
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
Association of Schools of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing
Campaign to End Obesity
Hepatitis Foundation International
Humana
National Association for Sport and Physical Education
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity
Pop Warner Little Scholars
Shaping America's Health
Society for Public Health Education
Trust for America's Health
United Cerebral Palsy
U.S. Conference of Mayors
Washington Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity
YMCA of the USA