

February 13, 2012

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 16 undersigned public health organizations, we write to urge you to vote "No" on H.R. 7, the American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act. This bill would eliminate dedicated funding for public transportation and key biking and walking programs that promote health and offer transportation options for people who can't or don't drive.

Access to quality public transportation is key to reducing traffic-related injuries and fatalities, reducing automobile pollution emissions, increasing physical fitness and providing access to work, housing, healthy food and critical health services. The House bill approved by the Transportation and Infrastructure and the Ways and Means Committees would end nearly 30 years of support for dedicated funding for mass transit programs.

Additionally, the House bill would eliminate dedicated funding for Transportation Enhancements and Safe Routes to School programs - two popular programs that are effective in promoting better health in communities across the country.

Dedicated funding for these programs is needed to help to meet the growing demand for safe, affordable and healthy transportation and the high quality of life that Americans want and deserve. Bicycling and walking are critical to keeping our communities moving with healthy, safe, and accessible transportation options.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns. We urge you to oppose H.R. 7 and instead work toward a bipartisan proposal that doesn't unfairly target funding for public transportation and biking and walking programs.

Sincerely,

American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance
American Heart Association
American Public Health Association
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Children's Environmental Health Network
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Local Boards of Health
National Recreation and Park Association
Public Health Institute
Public Health Law & Policy
Prevention Institute
Safe Streets Alliance
South Carolina Eat Smart, Move More Coalition
Trust for America's Health
Upstream Public Health
YMCA of the USA