



August 5, 2022

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the American Public Health Association, a diverse community of public health professionals that champions the health of all people and communities, I write in strong support of H.R. 5376, the Inflation Reduction Act. While the bill is not perfect and does not include other important APHA priorities, it represents a significant positive step forward in protecting the nation's health. This critical legislation will protect the public from the health threats associated with climate change and expand access to comprehensive and affordable health coverage. I urge your support for the bill and ask you to oppose any amendments that would weaken the bill or otherwise threaten the public's health.

We are extremely pleased that the legislation includes important new investments to combat climate change, transition to clean energy and protect the public from this growing health crisis while also advancing environmental justice by ensuring the investments deliver significant benefits to traditionally underserved communities. The most recent report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change provides definitive scientific evidence that we must act with great urgency to avert irreversible climate change that will be catastrophic to human health and wellbeing. This legislation will help speed the transition of our energy and transportation sectors away from fossil fuels and towards clean, safe and renewable energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by about 40% by 2030. Specifically, the bill includes \$370 billion in funding for long-term tax credits and other incentives for clean energy, home energy efficiency, clean transportation, an extension of tax credits for electric vehicles, investments to support clean energy manufacturing and other investments to decarbonize the U.S. economy. Importantly, the bill would also reduce methane emissions through new fees on methane emissions from the oil and gas sectors and will also provide resources to monitor methane emissions and support underserved communities impacted by methane pollution.

The Inflation Reduction Act also includes significant investments for expanding and improving health coverage in the nation moving us closer to the goal of achieving universal health coverage for all. Importantly, the bill would extend the American Rescue Plan Act's enhanced premium tax credits for purchasing Affordable Care Act plans in the marketplace through 2025, providing more than 10 million individuals with more affordable health insurance coverage and preventing more than 3 million individuals from losing coverage. Additionally, the legislation will help make prescription drugs more affordable for consumers by allowing Medicare to directly negotiate with drug makers to reduce the cost of certain high-cost prescription drugs and capping increases in prescription drug prices to the rate of inflation. The bill would also cap out-of-pocket prescription drug costs for Medicare patients at \$2,000 per year and provide free vaccines to seniors in Medicare.

Passage of this critical legislation is essential to improving and protecting the health of the nation and we urge your support for the bill when it comes to the Senate floor and ask you to oppose any amendments that would reduce the legislation's important public health benefits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Georges C. Benjamin'.

Georges C. Benjamin, MD
Executive Director