June 12, 2017

Dear Chairmen Blunt and Cole and Ranking Members Murray and DeLauro:

On behalf of the undersigned 217 organizations, we are writing to encourage your continued support for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the FY 2018 appropriations process, specifically the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at CDC. We strongly urge you to maintain FY 2017 funding levels for CDC chronic disease programs and, where possible, provide targeted increases to key public health programs. Although chronic diseases are largely preventable and the complications of chronic diseases are largely controllable, they are the leading cause of death and disability, and the leading driver of healthcare costs, in our nation and in all 50 states and U.S. territories. Without a robust investment in chronic disease prevention and control programs, we will never bend the cost curve in healthcare spending.

We deeply appreciate the support you gave to each of the important programs in FY 2017, showing your understanding of the evidence-based activities to reduce the leading causes of death, disability and healthcare costs in America and the importance of translating research results into communities through public health practice. These initiatives address our nation’s leading causes of death and disability – heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, arthritis, epilepsy and others – which have a disproportionate burden on American families, employers, and health care expenditures, and depress economic development.

We urge you to maintain the existing funding mechanisms of this Center, which provide resources and technical expertise through state health departments, national organizations, and local partner groups. These entities support interventions to prevent and control chronic disease and promote opportunities for people to reach their full health and human potential and be personally responsible for their health and the health of their families. Maintaining the existing funding mechanisms allows for ongoing accountability, transparency and measurable outcomes with Congress, states and taxpayers.

Looking to FY 2018 funding decisions, we support sustained categorical funding for the Diabetes, Heart Disease and Stroke, Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Prevention, Million Hearts, and Tobacco Control programs. We also encourage sustained funding for key cancer programs within the Center including colorectal, prostate, ovarian, and skin cancer,
registries, and cancer survivorship, along with the Prevention Research Centers, Healthy Schools, REACH, Arthritis, Alzheimer’s disease, epilepsy, lupus, and other health promotion programs. The size, scope and complexity of chronic diseases and disabilities has required substantial investments in research to help us better understand how to prevent and control these conditions. It is essential and fiscally responsible to translate those learnings and tools into programs in communities and real world settings.

The groups listed below, representing a broad spectrum of patients, public health and healthcare professionals and providers, strongly encourage you to continue to support these essential CDC programs to provide evidence-based services that spread the tools necessary for all Americans to reach full health potential and life expectancy.

We thank you again for your leadership and support of public health and prevention.

Sincerely,

John W. Robitscher, MPH
CEO
The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

And the undersigned:

- ABRAZO Arizona Heart Hospital
- Active Living By Design
- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
- Advocates for Better Children’s Diets
- Alliance for Aging Research
- Alliance of New York State YMCAs
- Alabama State Alliance of YMCAs
- Alzheimer’s Association
- Alzheimer’s Impact Movement
- America Walks
- American Academy of Neurology
- American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
- American Association of Diabetes Educators
- American Association of Neurological Surgeons
- American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
- American College of Cardiology
- American College of Preventive Medicine
- American College of Sports Medicine
- American Council on Exercise
- American Diabetes Association
- American Heart Association
- American Institute for Cancer Research
- American Lung Association
- American Physical Therapy Association
- American Planning Association
- American Psychological Association
- American Public Health Association
- American Society for Nutrition
- American Society of Echocardiography
- Anchorage Community YMCA
- Arkansas Alliance of YMCA’s
- Arthritis Foundation
- Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
- Association of Public Health Nurses
- Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists  
ASTDD  
Barbour County Health Department  
Boston Public Health Commission  
Bridging the Gap Education  
CA WIC Assn.  
California Alliance for Funding Prevention  
California Public Health Association-North  
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids  
Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands  
Cathedral Square Corporation/Support and Services at Home Program  
Cattaraugus County NY Health Department  
Center for Science in the Public Interest  
ChangeLab Solutions  
Child Neurology Foundation  
Coalitions Work  
Colorado Children’s Campaign  
Colorado State Alliance of YMCAs  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc. (COA)  
Community Health Councils  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs  
Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children  
DBA Susan Lopez-Payan  
Directors of Health Promotion and Education (DHPE)  
Deep River, LLC  
Department of Epidemiology, Emory  
University Rollins School of Public Health  
Dravet Syndrome Foundation  
Eat Smart Move More South Carolina  
Ellipses  
Emory Centers for Training & Technical Assistance  
Endocrine Society  
EPILEPSY CALIFORNIA  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Epilepsy Foundation Central & South Texas  
Epilepsy Foundation Chesapeake Region  
Epilepsy Foundation Colorado  
Epilepsy Foundation Eastern Pennsylvania  
Epilepsy Foundation Heart of Wisconsin  
Epilepsy Foundation Louisiana  
Epilepsy Foundation New England  
Epilepsy Foundation Northwest  
Epilepsy Foundation of Alabama  
Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut  
Epilepsy Foundation of Delaware  
Epilepsy Foundation of Georgia  
Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago  
Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Los Angeles  
Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Southern Illinois  
Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii  
Epilepsy Foundation of Indiana  
Epilepsy Foundation of Kentuckiana  
Epilepsy Foundation of Metropolitan New York  
Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan  
Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota  
Epilepsy Foundation of Mississippi  
Epilepsy Foundation of Missouri and Kansas  
Epilepsy Foundation of Nevada  
Epilepsy Foundation of North Carolina  
Epilepsy Foundation of North Central Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska  
Epilepsy Foundation of Oklahoma  
Epilepsy Foundation of Utah  
Epilepsy Foundation of Vermont  
Epilepsy Foundation of Virginia  
Epilepsy Foundation of Western Wisconsin  
Epilepsy Foundation Texas-Houston/Dallas/Fort Worth/West Texas  
Epilepsy Foundation Western/Central Pennsylvania  
Florida State Alliance of YMCAs  
FoodCorps  
Fund for Public Health in NYC  
Georgia Alliance of YMCAs  
Georgia Society for Public Health Education  
GirlTrek, Inc  
GW Cancer Center  
Greater Burlington YMCA  
Health by Design  
Health Power For Minorities  
Health Resources in Action
Healthy Teen Network
Healthy Weight Partnership
Healthy Youth Development-
Prevention Research Center
Hefelfinger Consulting, Inc
Hodding Carter Memorial YMCA
Hope for Hypothalamic Hamartomas
Illinois Public Health Institute
Illinois State Alliance of YMCAs
Indiana State Alliance of YMCAs
Intermountain Public Health
Consulting, LLC
Iowa Alliance of YMCAs
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of
Public Health
Kalusugan + Kalakasan Center for
Health & Wellness
Kansas State Alliance of YMCAs
Kentucky State Alliance of YMCA's
Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food,
Education & Policy, Teachers College
Columbia University
Lithuanian Health Science University
LIVESTRONG
LiveWell Colorado
Louisiana Public Health Institute
Lupus Foundation of America
Mended Hearts
Missouri State Alliance of YMCAs
Mississippi State Alliance of YMCAs
NASTAD
National Association of County and
City Health Officials (NACCHO)
National Association of Epilepsy
Centers
National Association of Pediatric Nurse
Practitioners
National Athletic Trainer's Association
National Coalition for Promoting
Physical Activity
National Consumers League
National Forum for Heart Disease &
Stroke Prevention
National Kidney Foundation
National Lipid Association
National Network of Public Health
Institutes
National Physical Activity Plan Alliance
National WIC Association
NC Alliance of YMCAs
Nemours Children's Health System
New Hampshire State Alliance of
YMCAs
New Jersey Alliance of YMCAs
New Mexico Alliance of YMCAs
NJPHA
North American Association of Central
Cancer Registries
Northern Illinois Public Health
Consortium
NOVA ScriptsCentral
Novo Nordisk Inc.
Ohio Alliance of YMCAs
Oklahoma Alliance of YMCAs
Oregon State Alliance of YMCAs
Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease
Pennsylvania State Alliance of YMCAs
Phelan-McDermid Syndrome
Foundation
Prevent Blindness
Prevention Institute
Prevention Research Center in St.
Louis
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses
Association
ProVention Health Foundation
Public Health Institute
Real Food for Kids
Redstone Global Center for Prevention
and Wellness
Research!America
Safe Routes to School National
Partnership
SC Alliance of YMCAs
Seafood Nutrition Partnership
SHAPE America - Society of Health and
Physical Educators
Siouxland District Health Department
Society of Behavioral Medicine
Solera Health, Inc.
Solve ME/CFS Initiative
South East American Indian Council,
Inc.
Southwestern Montana Family YMCA
Spina Bifida Association
St. Mary's County Health Department
Stanford Prevention Research Center
Stark County Health Department
State Alliance of Michigan YMCAs
StopAfib.org / American Foundation for
Women's Health
Suffolk County Bureau of Public Health
Nursing
Tennessee State Alliance of YMCA
Texas State Alliance of YMCAs
The Consortium
The Humane Society of the United States
The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health
The Task Force for Global Health
Thomas Jefferson University College of Pop Hlth, MPH Program
Trust for America’s Health
Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance
U.S. Breastfeeding Committee
UM Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities
University of Hawaii, Pacific Cancer Programs
WalkBoston
Wisconsin Alliance of YMCAs
Washington State Alliance of YMCA’s
Wisconsin Community Health Fund
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease
Women’s Heart Alliance
World Hypertension League
YMCA Alliance of Maine
YMCA of Delaware
YMCA of Northern Utah
YMCA of the USA