

April 25, 2019

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Blunt and Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Members Murray and Cole:

On behalf of the undersigned 46 organizations, we are writing to encourage your continued support for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the FY 2020 appropriations process, specifically the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at CDC. After years of flat funding for most programs in this Center, we strongly urge you to provide significant and meaningful increases for these programs that can address health disparities and reach underserved communities across the nation, and improve health across the lifespan.

For years, these programs have failed to see any significant increases and fall far short of meeting the potential to reduce healthcare costs and improve health outcomes. Chronic diseases -- heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, arthritis, epilepsy and others -- are at epidemic levels with 6 in 10 Americans living with one chronic disease and 4 in 10 living with two or more. Although chronic diseases are largely preventable and the complications of chronic diseases are largely controllable, they are the leading cause of death and disability. Treating chronic disease conditions is the leading driver of healthcare costs, which accounts for 90% of healthcare expenditures. As part of the overall campaign to increase the CDC budget 22% by FY 2022, now is the time to make bold investments in prevention that can impact communities across our states and territories with evidence-based public health interventions which occur outside the clinical setting of a hospital or doctor's office.

We thank you for maintaining the existing funding mechanisms of this Center in FY 2018 and FY 2019 and urge you to support increases in funding in FY 2020. The Administration's proposal for "America's Health Block Grant" would not adequately support interventions to prevent and control chronic disease. The current funding provides resources and technical expertise through state health departments, national organizations, and local partner groups. Maintaining the existing funding mechanisms allows for ongoing accountability, transparency and measurable outcomes with Congress, states, local communities, and taxpayers.

As we look to FY 2020 funding decisions, we will continue to support sustained categorical funding for Diabetes, Heart Disease and Stroke, Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Prevention, and tobacco control programs operated through state health agencies in partnership with communities across America that are proposed for the block grant. We also encourage sustained funding for key cancer programs within the Center including breast & cervical, colorectal, prostate, ovarian, and skin cancer, registries, and cancer survivorship, along with Prevention Research Centers, Healthy Schools, REACH, Million Hearts, Alzheimer's disease, epilepsy, lupus, and other health promotion programs.

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, prevention, and health promotion.

Sincerely,

National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
American Bone Health
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Rheumatology
American College of Sports Medicine
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
American Public Health Association
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Atrium Health
Barbour County Health Department
Bellingham Senior Activity Center
Big Cities Health Coalition
Bronx Breastfeeding Coalition
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands
ChangeLab Solutions
CUNY School of Medicine
Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition
Epilepsy Foundation
Erie Family Health Center
IBACH

Louisiana Cancer Prevention and Control
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Physical Activity Plan Alliance
Northeast Missouri Regional Arthritis Center
Pathways to American Indian and Alaska Native Wellness
PFC Consulting, LLC
Prevent Blindness
Prevention Institute
Public Health Institute
RiverStone Health
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Society for Public Health Education
Solera Health
Solve ME/CFS Initiative
South East American Indian Council Inc.
Southern Nevada Health District
Southwest Perinatal Education Services, LLC
Stony Brook University
The Food Trust
Trust for America's Health
YMCA of the USA