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
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<th>Organization</th>
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<td>Association of State Public Health Nutritionists</td>
<td>Epilepsy Foundation Eastern Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>ASTDD</td>
<td>Epilepsy Foundation Heart of Wisconsin</td>
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<td>Bridging the Gap Education</td>
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<td>CA WIC Assn.</td>
<td>Epilepsy Foundation of Alabama</td>
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<td>Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut</td>
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<td>California Public Health Association-North</td>
<td>Epilepsy Foundation of Delaware</td>
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<td>Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids</td>
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<td>Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands</td>
<td>Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago</td>
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<td>Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Los Angeles</td>
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<td>Cattaraugus County NY Health Department</td>
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<td>DBA Susan Lopez-Payan</td>
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<td>Directors of Health Promotion and Education (DHPE)</td>
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<td>Deep River , LLC</td>
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<td>Department of Epidemiology, Emory</td>
<td>Epilepsy Foundation of Western Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>University Rollins School of Public Health</td>
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<td>Epilepsy Foundation Chesapeake Region</td>
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<td>Health Power For Minorities</td>
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<td>Health Resources in Action</td>
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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