April 25, 2019

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| The Honorable Roy BluntChairmanSenate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related AgenciesWashington, DC 20510 | The Honorable Patty MurrayRanking MemberSenate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Washington, DC 20510 |
| The Honorable Rosa DeLauroChairwoman House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related AgenciesWashington, DC 20515 | The Honorable Tom ColeRanking MemberHouse Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related AgenciesWashington, 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