March 3, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

On behalf of the more than 500 undersigned organizations, we are writing to warn of the dire consequences of repealing the Prevention and Public Health Fund (the Prevention Fund), authorized under the Affordable Care Act. Repealing the Prevention Fund without a corresponding increase in the allocation for the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education appropriations bill would leave a funding gap for essential public health programs, and could also foretell deep cuts for other critical programs funded in the bill.

Today, more than 12 percent of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) budget is supplied through Prevention Fund investments. This includes core public health programs that provide essential funds to help states keep communities healthy and safe, such as the 317 immunization program, epidemiology and laboratory capacity grants, the entire Preventive Health and Health Services (Prevent) Block Grant program, cancer screenings, chronic disease prevention and other critically important programs. For example, the Prevent Block Grant provides all 50 states, the District of Columbia, two American Indian tribes, and eight U.S. territories with flexible funding to address their unique public health issues at the state and community level.

Despite the growing and geographically disparate burden of largely preventable diseases, health threats such as the opioid epidemic, and emerging infectious disease outbreaks such as the Zika virus, federal disease prevention and public health programs remain critically underfunded. Public health spending is still below pre-recession levels, having remained relatively flat for years. The CDC’s budget authority has actually decreased by 11.4 percent since FY 2010 adjusted for inflation, and the Prevention Fund has helped to make up the difference.

Discretionary programs, including public health, education, and job training programs funded through the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education (LHHS) appropriations spending bill have been cut dramatically and disproportionately in recent years as lawmakers have worked to reduce the deficit, even though experts across the political spectrum agree these programs are not a driving factor behind our nation’s mid- and long term fiscal challenges. Eliminating the Prevention Fund would be disastrous to the CDC budget and programs, and to the LHHS bill as a whole, leaving a nearly $1 billion budget hole which would be impossible to fill under current discretionary spending caps.
Funding prevention not only saves lives but it saves money. A comprehensive study of evidence-based prevention programs found that every dollar invested yields $5.60 in savings. There are many provisions of the Affordable Care Act aimed at promoting health and prevention, but the Prevention Fund is particularly important – a dedicated investment in prevention and public health activities to counteract the much larger bill – $3.2 trillion and growing – we pay every year as a country to treat illness and disease.

We urge you to maintain funding made possible by the Prevention and Public Health Fund and safeguard funding for the CDC and other programs under the Labor-HHS-Education spending bill.

Sincerely,

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Ability360
Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Action for Healthy Kids (AFHK)
Active Living By Design
Active Transportation Alliance
Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research
ADAP Advocacy Association (aaa+)
Addiction Connections Resource
Adult Congenital Heart Association
Advancement Project California
Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital
Advocates for Better Children's Diets
African American Health Alliance
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families
The AIDS Institute
AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta
AIDS United
Allamakee County Public Health
American Academy of HIV Medicine
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Dental Research
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of Naturopathic Physicians
American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine
American Association on Health and Disability
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Cardiology
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
American College of Preventive Medicine
American College of Sports Medicine
American Council on Exercise
American Diabetes Association
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
American Heart Association
American Immunization Registry Association
American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian
APHCA Caucus
The American Academy of HIV Medicine
American Lung Association
American Medical Student Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American School Health Association
American Sexual Health Association
American Society for Nutrition
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene
American STD Association
American Thoracic Society
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Foundation
APICAT for Healthy Communities
APLA Health
The Arc
Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest
Arizona Health Care Association
Arizona Medical Association
The Arizona Partnership for Immunization
Arizona Public Health Association
Arizona Rural Health Association
Arkansas Public Health Association
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Asian Services In Action
Association for Clinical and Translational Science
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges
Association of Accredited Public Health Programs
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Montana Public Health Officials
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Atrius Health
Authority Health
Barnes ON THE MOVE Partnership
Behavioral Health Leadership Institute
Benzie Leelanau District Health Department (Benzonia, MI)
Berean Wellness & Community Support Center
Big Cities Health Coalition
Boston Alliance for Community Health
Boston Public Health Commission
Boston Senior Home Care
Boston University School of Public Health
Boulder County Public Health
The Bronx Health Link
Bronx Health REACH
California Public Health Association-North
California WIC Association
California WIC Association
Cambridge Health Alliance
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
Camptonville Community Partnership
Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands
Canyon Ranch Center for Prevention & Health Promotion
Cedar County Public Health
Center for Behavioral Epidemiology & Community Health
Center for Health and Learning
Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Center in the Park
Central California Asthma Collaborative
Central Jersey Family Health Consortium
Central Michigan District Health Department
Central Michigan Regional Rural Health Network
Centralina Area Agency on Aging
Centro Multicultural La Familia
Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health
Chalk Talk Science Project
ChangeLab Solutions
Chicago Commons
Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition (WA State)
Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD)
Children's Environmental Health Network
Children's Health Fund
Children's Mental Health Network
City-County Health District
Clinical Research Forum
Coalition for Clinical and Translational Science
Coalition for Health Funding
Coalition for Healthy School Food
Coconino County Public Health Services District
College of Public Health and Human Sciences, Oregon State University
Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials
Colorado Association of School Nurses
Colorado Children's Immunization Coalition
Colorado Public Health Association
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc. (COA)
CommonHealth ACTION
Community Access National Network (CANN)
Community Clinic Consortium
Community Health Councils
Community Health Improvement Partners
Connecticut Directors of Health Association
Connecticut Public Health Association
Conrad House, Inc.
Contact Wellness Foundation
Cooley's Anemia Foundation
COPD Foundation
Council for Diabetes Prevention
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Council on Aging- Chicopee, MA
County Health Executives Association of California
County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency
The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America
Cultiva La Salud
Delaware Academy of Medicine /
Delaware Public Health Association
Delaware County Office for the Aging
Delaware Public Health Association
Denver Public Health
Des Ahrens Lactation Consulting
Detroit Public Health STD Clinic
Diabetes Center for Improvement
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Dignity Health
Directors of Health Promotion and Education
District Health Department #10 (Tampa, FL)
District Health Department 2 & 4 (West Branch, MI)
Diversified Resources Group
Doctors for America
Dorchester County Health Department
Duxbury Council On Aging
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation
Early Impact Virginia
Edna Bennett Pierce Prevention Center,
Penn State University
Ehrens Consulting
Elder Options
Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley, Inc.
Elder Services of Worcester Area, Inc.
Element Health, Inc.
Emory University
Endocrine Society
Enhance Asian Community on Health
Evidence-Based Leadership Council
Fairhill Partners
The Family Van: Harvard Medical School
Fayette County Health Department
Feeling Good MN
First In Families of North Carolina
Florida Breastfeeding Coalition
The Food Trust
Forest Grove Public Schools Region 6
Regional Prevention Coordinators
Foundation for Healthy Generations
Fund for Public Health in New York City
Futures Without Violence
Gallatin City-County Health Department
GBS|CIDP Foundation International
George Washington University Cancer Center
Georgia Society For Public Health Education
Global Liver Institute
Grand Traverse County Health Department
Greater Holyoke YMCA
The Greenlining Institute
Harrison County Home and Public Health
Hawaii Public Health Association
Hawaii Public Health Institute
Healing Touch Massage
Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City
Health Connect of South Dakota
Health Department of Northwest Michigan
Health Living Collaborative of Southwest Washington
Health Promotion Council of Southeastern Pennsylvania Inc.
Health Resources in Action
ON THE MOVE, a community public health partnership
Oregon Public Health Association
Oregon State University
Origins FTD, Inc.
Partners for a Healthier Community
Partners in Care Foundation
PATHS Education Worldwide
Peer Health Exchange
Peggy Lillis Foundation
Personal Assistance Services Council
Philly Breastfeeds
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Presence Mercy Medical Center Health Institute
Prevent Blindness
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Prevention Institute
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Primary Care Development Corporation
Primary Care Medicine & Public Health Synergy
Prism Health North Texas
Project Inform
Project Mend-A-House
Promoting Healthy
Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition
Public Health Advocates
Public Health Association of Nebraska
Public Health Association of New York City
Public Health Delta & Menominee Counties
Public Health Foundation
Public Health Institute
Public Health Solutions
Pulmonary Fibrosis Advocates
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
PureView Health Center
Quality Home Care Services
Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Region 9 Education Cooperative
Research!America
Respiratory Health Association
Retrofit
RiverStone Health
Rural AIDS Action Network
Rural Center for AIDS/STD Prevention at the IU School of Public Health Bloomington
S2AY Rural Health Network, Inc.
Sacramento Black Child Development Institute
Safe and Healthy Communities
Safe Kids Worldwide
Safe Routes to School National Partnership
Safe States Alliance
Saint Anthony Hospital
Salud de Paloma
Sarah Samuels Center for Public Health Research & Evaluation
School-Based Health Alliance
Scleroderma Foundation
SCP Partners
Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County
Self-Management Resource Center
Senior Citizen Services of Greater Tarrant County Inc.
Senior Resources - Agency on Aging
Senior Services of Snohomish County
Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia SeniorsPlus
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S
Shelby County Schools Coordinated School Health Shoals Community Clinic
Sickle Cell Disease Association/PDVC
Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Honor Society
Sleep Research Society
Society for Public Health Education
Society for the Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR)
The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
Society of Behavioral Medicine
South Alabama Regional Planning Commission
South Carolina Tobacco-Free Collaborative
Southeast Ohio Breastfeeding Coalition
Southern California Public Health Association
Southern California Society for Public Health Education
Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative (SASI)
Southwest Human Development, Inc.
SparksInitiatives
Spina Bifida Association
Spokane Shrinking Violet Society
St Clair County Health Department
Stewart Memorial Community Hospital
Sumner M. Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness,
George Washington University
Susan G. Komen
Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
Tennessee Public Health Association
Think Bicycles of Johnson County
Three Rivers district Home Health
Thrive At Life: Working Solutions
Tomorrow Matters!
Training Resources Network, Inc.
Treatment Action Group
Tri County Health Department
(Greenwood, CO)
Trust for America's Health
Tuscola County Health Department
U.S. Hereditary Angioedema Association
United States Breastfeeding Committee
United Way of Tarrant County, TX
Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio
The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
Utah Public Health Association
Valley Program for Aging Services
Vermont Public Health Association
VillageCare
Virginia Public Health Association
Walk San Francisco
WalkBoston
The Wall Las Memorias Project
Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO)
Washington State Public Health Association
Wayne State University Center for Health and Community Impact
Wellco
WellGiG
Wellness Institute of Greater Buffalo
West Valley Neighborhoods Coalition
Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging
Western North Carolina AIDS Project
Wholesome Wave
Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA
Winnebago County Board of Health
Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging
Wisconsin Public Health Association
WithReach
Wolfson Wellness
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease
The Women's Caucus
YCat Yoga Therapy & Jnani Chapman's Integrative Medicine Service
Youngstown State University