January 18, 2018

| The Honorable Mitch McConnell                  | The Honorable Charles Schumer                  |
| Senate Majority Leader                          | Senate Minority Leader                          |
| United States Senate                            | United States Senate                            |
| Washington, DC 20510                             | Washington, DC 20510                             |

| The Honorable Paul Ryan                      | The Honorable Nancy Pelosi                      |
| Speaker of the House                          | Democratic Leader                               |
| United States House of Representatives        | United States House of Representatives          |
| Washington, DC 20515                          | Washington, DC 20515                            |

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan, and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

As organizations committed to improving the public’s health, we write to express our serious concern about the most recent continuing resolution, which cut $750 million from the Prevention and Public Health Fund (Prevention Fund) and will put Americans at greater risk for illnesses, injuries and preventable deaths. This represents a 17 percent cut to the Prevention Fund over several years, including an 11 percent cut in fiscal year (FY) 2019. We ask you to reject any additional cuts to the Prevention Fund and restore this lost funding to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) by directing new resources made available by a broader budget agreement to raise the spending caps, or from savings due to the long-term reauthorization of the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), to the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related agencies (LHHS) 302(b) allocation.

The Prevention Fund currently comprises more than 12 percent of CDC’s entire annual operating budget. The majority of the programs it funds are core public health programs that existed prior to the creation of the Prevention Fund. As a result, cuts to the Prevention Fund will translate into funding shortfalls in programs that states have long relied upon to keep their residents healthy and safe. Among these programs are the 317 immunization program that protects millions of Americans, public health laboratory grants to identify risks and prevent infectious diseases, the Preventive Health and Health Services (Prevent) Block Grant program which allows states the flexibility to address their most pressing health concerns, cancer screenings, chronic disease prevention and other critically important programs. The Prevention Fund represents 53 percent, 20 percent, and 100 percent of these critical programs’ budgets, respectively.

Since FY 2010, CDC’s budget authority has actually decreased by 11.4 percent (adjusted for inflation). This cut has occurred in spite of the growing and geographically disparate burden of largely preventable health threats such as the opioid epidemic and emerging infectious disease outbreaks such as the Zika virus.
CHIP, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), National Health Service Corps, the Special Diabetes Program and other important programs are critical to ensuring that Americans have access to health care and to improving equity in health outcomes. However, cutting CDC funding undermines the core missions of those programs, as CDC activities supported by the Prevention Fund work in concert with primary care providers to keep Americans healthy. These are separate and distinct sets of activities that work together to protect the health of Americans.

Programs funded through the LHHS appropriations bill, including public health, education, and job training programs funded with non-defense discretionary dollars, have been cut dramatically and disproportionately in recent years as Congress has worked to reduce spending. Yet experts across the political spectrum agree these programs are not a driving factor behind our nation’s mid- and long term deficit challenges. The recent cut to the Prevention Fund further exacerbates these budget reductions. Instead of pitting CDC funding against other important health priorities, Congress should significantly increase its investment in CDC to ensure that we have the resources required to address the health challenges facing the nation.

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. Further cuts to public health funding will likely cause children and families to become sicker and our nation’s health care costs to grow even faster. Congress must begin to reverse the trend of cutting CDC’s budget and significantly increase investments in the agency to ensure the federal, state, and local public health professionals have the skills and resources they need to protect and further improve the health of the American people. As Congress works toward a budget agreement, we urge you to restore these cuts to CDC’s budget to ensure that CDC maintains its ability to carry out its mission of saving lives and improving health.

Sincerely,

1,000 Days
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
ADAP Advocacy Association
Addiction Connections Resource
Advocates for Better Children's Diets
The AIDS Institute
American Academy of Nursing
American Association for Dental Research
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association on Health and Disability
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Council on Exercise
American Diabetes Association
American Lung Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Microbiology
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene
The Arizona Partnership for Immunization
Arizona Public Health Association
Local Public Health Association of Minnesota
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health
Louisiana Public Health Association
Maine Public Health Association
MaineHealth
March of Dimes
The Marfan Foundation
Marshfield Clinic Health System
Maximizing Adolescent Potential Program
Minnesota Childhood Immunization Coalition
Mississippi Public Health Association
MJH Grant Consulting
Monona County Public Health
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors
National Alopecia Areata Foundation
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Association of County & City Health Officials
National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials
National Birth Defects Prevention Network
National Blood Clot Alliance
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Coalition on Health Care
National Committee for Quality Assurance
National Consumers League
National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians
National Council on Aging
National Foundation for Infectious Diseases
National Minority AIDS Council
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Physicians Alliance
National Prevention Science Coalition
National Recreation and Park Association
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable
National WIC Association
NephCure Kidney International
Nevada Public Health Association
New Hampshire Public Health Association
New Jersey Public Health Association
North American Quitline Consortium
North Carolina Alliance for Health
Oasis Institute
Ohio Public Health Association
Oregon Public Health Association
Parents of Kids with Infectious Diseases
Partners in Care Foundation
Pediatric Nurse Practitioner House Calls
Peggy Lillis Foundation
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Polk County Health Department
Prevent Blindness
The Prevent Cancer Foundation
Prevention Institute
Primary Care Development Corporation
Public Health Foundation
Public Health Institute
Public Health Institute of Western MA
Pulmonary Fibrosis Advocates
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Research!America
Respiratory Health Association
Rural AIDS Action Network
Safe Routes to School National Partnership
Safe States Alliance
Scleroderma Foundation
SHAPE America - Society of Health and Physical Educators
Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation
Sleep Research Society
Society of General Internal Medicine
The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
South Carolina Tobacco-Free Collaborative
Spondylitis Association of America
Sumner M Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness
Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
Treatment Action Group
Trust for America's Health
United States Breastfeeding Committee
US Hereditary Angioedema Association
Voices for Vaccines
WalkBoston
Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials
Wisconsin Public Health Association
Wolfson Wellness
Wyoming Pathways