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| The Honorable Roy BluntChairmanSenate Appropriations Subcommitteeon Labor, Health and Human Services,Education and Related AgenciesWashington, DC 20510 | The Honorable Patty MurrayRanking MemberSenate Appropriations Subcommitteeon Labor, Health and Human Services,Education and Related AgenciesWashington, DC 20510 |
| The Honorable Tom ColeChairmanHouse Appropriations Subcommitteeon Labor, Health and Human Services,Education and Related Agencies Washington, DC 20515 | The Honorable Rosa DeLauroRanking MemberHouse Appropriations Subcommitteeon Labor, Health and Human Services,Education and Related AgenciesWashington, DC 20515 |

March 15, 2018

Dear Chairmen Blunt and Cole and Ranking Members Murray and DeLauro:

On behalf of the undersigned 64 organizations, we are writing to encourage your continued support for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the FY 2019 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.

Our nation’s leading causes of death and disability – heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, arthritis, epilepsy and others – place a disproportionate burden on American families and employers. These diseases are largely preventable and the associated complications from these chronic diseases are largely controllable. We need a sizeable investment in chronic disease prevention and control programs to bend the cost curve in healthcare spending.

We thank you for rejecting the Administration’s proposal for “America’s Block Grant” and for maintaining the existing funding mechanisms of this Center in FY 2018 and urge you to continue to lead that effort in FY 2019. The current funding provides 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.

As we look to FY 2019 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,



John W. Robitscher, MPH

CEO

National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

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| Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics |
| Active Living By Design |
| America Walks |
| American Association of Diabetes Educators |
| American Bone Health |
| American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network |
| American College of Preventive Medicine |
| American College of Rheumatology |
| American College of Sports Medicine |
| American Heart Association |
| American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR) |
| American Podiatric Medical Association, Inc. |
| AMY Consulting, LLC |
| Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food & Agriculture |
| Arthritis Foundation |
| Aspen Valley Hospital |
| Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors |
| Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands |
| Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition |
| East Stroudsburg University, Center for Public Health Practice and Innovation |
| ECAN Esophageal Cancer Action Network, Inc. |
| Emory Centers for Training and Technical Assistance |
| Emory University |
| Gbuahn Health Home |
| Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing at NYU Meyers College of Nursing   |
| Hawaii State Department of Health |
| Hawaii State Department of Health, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion |
| Hefelfinger Consulting, LLC |
| Kentucky Cancer Registry |
| La Clinica de Familia, Inc |
| Lake County General Health District |
| Lakeshore Foundation |
| Louisiana Cancer Prevention and Control |
| National Association of County and City Health Officials |
| National Association of Chronic Disease Directors |
| National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity |
| National Fitness Foundation |
| National Forum  |
| National Kidney Foundation |
| National Physical Activity Plan Alliance |
| New Mexico Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (NMAND) |
| New Mexico Public Health Association |
| Oregon Health & Science University Prevention Research Center |
| Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease  |
| Partnership to Reduce Cancer in Rhode Island |
| PFC Consulting, LLC |
| Prevention Research Center |
| SHAPE America - Society of Health andPhysical Educators |
| Solve ME/CFS Initiative |
| South Carolina Tobacco-Free Collaborative |
| South East American Indian Council, Inc. |
| Stanford University |
| StonyBrook University |
| Tampa Bay ASthma Coalition |
| The Anxiety & Depression Initiative |
| The Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities |
| Triage Cancer |
| University at Albany, State University of New York |
| University of Colorado School of Medicne |
| University of Hawaii at Manoa |
| VisionServe Alliance |
| Washington State Alliance of YMCA's |
| Washington University in St. Louis |