May 17, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Senate Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the more than 520 undersigned organizations, we are writing to warn of the dire consequences of repealing the Prevention and Public Health Fund (the Prevention Fund), which is repealed by the American Health Care Act (H.R. 1628) at the end of FY 2018. 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 substantial cuts for other critical programs funded in the bill. As the Senate begins work on its version of health reform, we urge you to leave the Prevention and Public Health Fund in place.

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 & Electrodagnostic 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 APHA Caucus
The American Academy of HIV Medicine
American College of Occupational and Environmental 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 Society for Nutrition
American Sexual Health Association
American Society for 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
B’more Mobile
Barnes ON THE MOVE Partnership
Behavioral Health Leadership Institute
Benzie Leelanau District Health Department
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 State Association of Counties
California WIC Association
Cambridge Health Alliance
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
Camptonville Community Partnership
Canary Health
Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands
Cancer Prevention and Treatment Fund
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 of Washington 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.
The Consortium
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
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
Essential Access 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
Healthcare Ready
Healthy Communities Coalition
Healthy Living Cape Cod
Healthy Oxford Hills
Healthy Schools Campaign
Healthy Teen Network
Healthy Weight Partnership
Hemophilia Council of California
Hemophilia Foundation of Southern California
Hepatitis B Foundation
Hepatitis Foundation International
Heritage Health and Housing
Hispanic Health Initiatives, Inc.
HIV Medicine Association
HLN Consulting, LLC
Hogg Foundation for Mental Health
Home Care Alliance of MA
Human Impact Partners
Idaho Immunization Coalition
Idaho Public Health Association
Idaho Walk Bike Alliance
Illinois Public Health Institute
Immunize Nevada
Impetus – Let’s Get Started, LLC
Indiana Public Health Association
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Institute for Community & Collaborative Health
Institute for Health and Productivity Studies, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
Institute for Public Health Innovation
Institute of Social Medicine & Community Health
Intermountain Public Health Consulting, LLC
International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners
International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium
International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders
International Society for Disease Surveillance
International Valley Health Institute
Interstitial Cystitis Foundation
Iowa Public Health Association
Jefferson County Public Health
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
John Peter Smith Health Network
Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security
Johns Hopkins University Institute for Health and Productivity Studies
Joy-Southfield Community Development Corp
Kalusugan Community Services
Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition
Kentucky Voices for Health
Khmer Health Advocates
Kossuth County Public Health
La Alianza Hispana
Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center
Lakeshore Foundation
The Latino Health Insurance Program, Inc.
Latino Public Health Network at Hopkins
Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education & Policy, Teachers College Columbia University
Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department
League of American Bicyclists
Levine Senior Center
LiveWell Longmont
Local Public Health Association of Minnesota
The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health
Louisiana Public Health Association
Louisiana Public Health Institute
Lung Cancer Alliance
Maine Public Health Association
MaineHealth
March of Dimes
The Marfan Foundation
Maricopa County Department of Public Health
Maricopa Integrated Health System
Maryland Partnership for Prevention
Maryland Public Health Organization
Massachusetts Public Health Association
Master Trainer
Matter of Balance
Meals on Wheels and Senior Medicines360
Meharry Medical College
Men's Health Caucus
Mennin Consulting and Associates
Mental Health America of Arizona
METAvivor
Metropolitan Area Planning Council
Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force
Michigan Association for Local Public Health
Michigan Breastfeeding Network
MIKE Program
Minneapolis Health Department
Minnesota Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Minnesota Public Health Association
Mississippi Public Health Association
Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging
My Brother's Keeper, Inc.
NAATPN, Inc.
NAPHSIS: National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems
Nashville CARES
National AHEC Organization
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors
National Alopecia Areata Foundation
National Association for Health and Fitness
National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Association of Counties
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors
National Birth Defects Prevention Network
National Birth Equity Collaborative
National Blood Clot Alliance
National Center for Disaster Preparedness
National Center for Health Care
The National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc.
National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Coalition on Health Care
National Collaborative for Health Equity
The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care
National Council for Behavioral Health
National Council on Aging
National Environmental Health Association
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention
National Foundation for Infectious Diseases
National Healthy Start Association
National Hemophilia Foundation
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Institute for Children's Health Quality
National Latino Network of Casa de Esperanza
Sarah Samuels Center for Public Health
Research & Evaluation
Self-Management Resource Center
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
The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
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.
Sparks Initiatives
Spina Bifida Association
Spokane Shrinking Violet Society
St Clair County Health Department
Stewart Memorial Community Hospital
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 Village, 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
WithinReach
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
Zero Breast Cancer