

June 2, 2017

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

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

On behalf of the undersigned \_\_\_\_\_ organizations, we are writing to encourage your continued support for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the FY 2018 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. Without a robust investment in chronic disease prevention and control programs, we will never bend the cost curve in healthcare spending.

**We deeply appreciate the support you gave to each of the important programs in FY 2017**, showing your understanding of the evidence-based activities to reduce the leading causes of death, disability and healthcare costs in America and the importance of translating research results into communities through public health practice. These initiatives address our nation's leading causes of death and disability – heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, arthritis, epilepsy and others – which have a disproportionate burden on American families, employers, and health care expenditures, and depress economic development.

We urge you to maintain the existing funding mechanisms of this Center, which provide 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.

Looking to FY 2018 funding decisions, we support sustained categorical funding for the Diabetes, Heart Disease and Stroke, Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Prevention, Million Hearts, and Tobacco Control programs. We also encourage sustained funding for key cancer programs within the Center including colorectal, prostate, ovarian, and skin cancer, and cancer survivorship, along with the Prevention Research Centers, Healthy Schools, REACH, Arthritis, Alzheimer's disease, epilepsy, lupus, and other health promotion programs. The size, scope and complexity of chronic diseases and disabilities has required substantial investments in research to help us better understand how to prevent and control these conditions.

It is essential and fiscally responsible to translate those learnings and tools into programs in communities and real world settings.

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 and prevention.

Sincerely,