

The Honorable Orrin Hatch  
Chairman  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chairman  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor &  
Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor &  
Pensions  
United States Senates  
Washington, DC 20510

November 29, 2017

Dear Chairman Hatch, Ranking Member Wyden, Chairman Alexander, and Ranking Member Murray:

As organizations committed to improving the public's health, we are writing to urge you to act swiftly to reauthorize several important safety net programs without using the Prevention and Public Health Fund (Prevention Fund) as an offset. These programs are all valuable parts of the public health continuum, and cutting one program to pay for another will not serve to reach our shared goal of improving the health of all Americans. We urge you to work together to develop bipartisan legislation that will fund these programs without further delay.

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), National Health Service Corps and other important health programs saw their funding expire on September 30<sup>th</sup>. These programs are critical to ensuring that Americans have access to health care and to improving equity in health outcomes. However, cutting the Prevention Fund would undermine the core missions of the programs this legislation seeks to support, as programs supported by the Prevention Fund work in concert with primary care providers to keep Americans healthy.

Today, the Prevention Fund comprises 12 percent of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) budget. CDC initiatives supported by the Prevention Fund improve children's health by helping reduce the risk of lead poisoning, expanding access to vaccines, and supporting breastfeeding moms. The Prevention Fund also helps their parents and caregivers stop smoking, eat better, and be more physically active, while providing resources for state and local public health departments to prepare for and respond to natural disasters and infectious disease outbreaks. While the original authorizing language designated as much as \$2 billion a year in new investments to modernize our prevention and public health efforts, as a result of previous legislative action, less than half of that was available in fiscal year 2017.

Despite the growing and geographically disparate burden of largely preventable diseases; health threats such as the opioid epidemic; emerging infectious disease outbreaks such as the Zika virus; and recent natural disasters in Texas, Florida and California, 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 after adjusting for inflation, and the Prevention Fund has helped to make up the difference. In addition, the future scheduled growth of the Prevention Fund will allow public health to make up some of this lost ground and increase investments in innovative programs aimed at better preparing the nation for future health challenges.

Reducing our nation's ability to prevent illness and injury will likely cause children and families to become sicker and our nation's healthcare costs to grow even faster. We will never get health spending under control if we do not invest in keeping Americans healthy in the first place. Funding for CHIP, FQHCs and other critical healthcare programs must continue, but not at the expense of our nation's health.

Sincerely,

1,000 Days

Alabama Public Health Association  
American Association for Dental Research  
American Association on Health and  
Disability  
American Congress of Obstetricians and  
Gynecologists  
American Diabetes Association  
American Organization of Nurse Executives  
American Public Health Association  
American Society of Hematology  
American Thoracic Society  
The Arizona Partnership for Immunization  
Arkansas Public Health Association  
Art & Science of Health Promotion Institute  
Association of Accredited Public Health  
Programs  
Association of State and Territorial Health  
Officials  
Big Cities Health Coalition  
Briley Consulting, LLC  
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids  
Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund  
Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands  
Center for Science in the Public Interest

ChangeLab Solutions  
Coalition for Health Funding  
Colorado Public Health Association  
Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago  
Children  
Council of State and Territorial  
Epidemiologists  
Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware  
Public Health Association  
Dorchester County Health Department  
Eat Smart Move More South Carolina  
Ehrens Consulting  
Eta Sigma Gamma  
Foundation for Healthy Generations  
FrameWork Health, Inc.  
Hawaii Public Health Association  
Health Resources in Action  
Hep B United  
Hepatitis B Foundation  
HIV Medicine Association  
Hogg Foundation for Mental Health  
Idaho Public Health Association  
Illinois Public Health Association  
Immunize Nevada  
Impactivo, LLC.

Indiana Public Health Association  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
Intermountain Public Health Consulting,  
LLC  
Iowa Public Health Association  
Johnson County Department of Health &  
Environment  
Kansas Public Health Association  
LA Public Health Association  
Lakeshore Foundation  
Live Well Luzerne  
Local Public Health Association of  
Minnesota  
Los Angeles County Department of Public  
Health  
Louisiana Public Health Institute  
Maine Public Health Association  
March of Dimes  
Massachusetts Public Health Association  
Metropolitan Area Planning Council  
Michigan Public Health Association  
Missouri Public Health Association  
Montana Public Health Association  
National Association of County & City  
Health Officials  
National Association of School Nurses  
National Association of State Alcohol and  
Drug Abuse Directors  
National Institute for Children's Health  
Quality  
National Network of Public Health Institutes  
National Recreation and Park Association  
National WIC Association  
Nemours Children's Health System  
Nevada Public  
New Jersey Public Health Association  
North Carolina Public Health Association  
North Dakota Public Health Association  
Ohio Public Health Association  
Origins FTD, Inc.  
Partners for a Healthier Community, Inc.  
Peggy Lillis Foundation  
Pennsylvania Public Health Association

Physician Assistant Education Association  
Prevent Blindness  
The Prevent Cancer Foundation  
Prevention Institute  
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses  
Association  
Primary Care Development Corporation  
Professional & Technical Employees Local  
17  
Public Health Advocates  
Public Health Foundation  
Public Health Institute  
Redstone Global Center for Prevention and  
Wellness  
Research!America  
RiverStone Health  
San Mateo County Medical Center  
The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of  
America  
Society for Public Health Education  
Tennessee Public Health Association  
Trust for America's Health  
U.S. Breastfeeding Committee  
Utah Public Health Association  
Virginia Public Health Association  
Washington State Public Health Association  
Wayne State University Center for Health  
and Community Impact  
Wisconsin Public Health Association  
Wyoming Pathways