

June 18, 2019

Senator Richard Blumenthal
706 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Doris Matsui
2311 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Blumenthal and Congresswoman Matsui:

On behalf of the more than 180 undersigned organizations, we are writing to thank you for the introduction of the Public Health Funding Restoration Act, a bill that will restore funding for the Prevention and Public Health Fund (Prevention Fund). Support for the Prevention Fund will help expand and strengthen critical prevention and public health activities that improve our nation's health and help reduce health care costs.

The Prevention Fund, established under Section 4002 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA, P.L. 111-148, as amended), is a dedicated funding stream intended to strengthen our country's public health system, invest in proven prevention programs, and directly support states and communities to address their most pressing health challenges. In FY2019, more than 11 percent of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) budget was supplied through Prevention Fund investments. This includes funding for core public health activities, such as the 317 Immunization Program, tobacco cessation, chronic disease prevention, infectious disease response, and other critical programs to help states and local organizations keep communities healthy and safe.

Public health is chronically underfunded. As public health faces 21st century threats – such as the substance misuse and suicide epidemics, infectious disease outbreaks, and increases in chronic disease rates – resources have not kept pace. The Prevention Fund represented an unprecedented investment in prevention and public health, with the allocation intended to grow from \$500 million in FY2010 to \$2 billion in FY2015 and each subsequent fiscal year. Due to cuts and offsets that did not reflect the original intent of the Fund (promotion of prevention and public health), however, the Prevention Fund is now scheduled to reach \$2 billion in FY2028, 13 years later than authorized. Despite funding essential public health work, the Prevention Fund has already been cut by \$11.85 billion from FY2013-FY2027.

Current public health threats such as the opioid epidemic and outbreaks like measles highlight an ongoing need to invest in health and prevention. These programs are life-saving and cost-effective. A 2017 systematic review of the return on investment of public health interventions in high-income countries found a median return of 14 to 1.¹ *Tips from Former Smokers* has led to

¹ Masters R, Anwar E, Collins B, Cookson R, Capewell S. Return on investment of public health interventions: a systematic review. *J Epidemiol Community Health* 71(8):827-34, 2017.
<http://jech.bmj.com/content/jech/early/2017/03/07/jech-2016-208141.full.pdf>

over 500,000 Americans quitting smoking for good.² And CDC estimates that every dollar spent on childhood immunization saves society more than \$10, and childhood immunizations prevented 855,000 early deaths over 23 years.³ Despite the growing burden of largely preventable diseases and strong evidence supporting investments in prevention, federal disease prevention and public health programs remain critically underfunded.

The Prevention Fund is 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. That is why the Public Health Funding Restoration Act is a critical step to increase federal investment in public health programs to prevent injury and illness and reduce our health care costs. Specifically, the Public Health Funding Restoration Act:

- Restores funding to the PPHF to \$2 billion for FY2020 and all subsequent years;
- Reaffirms the importance of prevention and public health programs to HHS, and local and state health departments' efforts to prevent and control the spread of disease;
- Reaffirms the importance of the programs/activities that the Prevention Fund supports on the federal, state, and local level;
- Acknowledges the effectiveness of prevention campaigns in preventing disease and death;
- Acknowledges cost savings associated with investments in preventive medicine and community-based prevention efforts; and
- Recognizes that cuts to the Prevention Fund undermine public health, and undermine efforts to create an affordable and accessible health care system.

We thank you for sponsoring the Public Health Funding Restoration Act in order to strengthen our nation's ability to develop innovative programs that can respond to new or existing infectious disease threats, help reduce the burden of chronic disease, and enable Americans to live longer, healthier lives.

Sincerely,

1,000 Days
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Oncology DPG
Advocates for Better Children's Diets
African American Health Alliance
AIDS Action Baltimore
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
Akeso Consulting

² Tips® Impact and Results. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

<https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/campaign/tips/about/impact/campaign-impact-results.html>

³ U.S. Public Health Response. Testimony of CDC before House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. Feb 27, 2019. <https://www.cdc.gov/washington/testimony/2019/t20190227.htm>

Alliance For A Healthier Asbury Park
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
American Medical Student Association
American Public Health Association
America's Blood Centers
APLA Health
Apombee
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Association for Behavioral Healthcare Massachusetts
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association of Accredited Public Health Programs
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Ohio Health Commissioners
Association of Public Health Nurses (APHN)
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Aune Associates Consulting
Bethel Family Enrichment Center
Big Cities Health Coalition
Black Women's Blueprint
Bon Secours Family Health and Wellness
Bristol's Promise: Youth Networking Alliance
Bronx Community Health Network
Brooklyn Plaza Medical Center Inc.
Butte County Public Health
CA4Health
California Breastfeeding Coalition
California Conference of Local Health Officers
California Hepatitis C Task Force
California Immunization Coalition
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
ChangeLab Solutions
City of Newark Dept. of Health and Community Wellness
Coalition for a Tobacco Free Arkansas
Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials

Colorado School Medicaid Consortium
Community Health Action of Staten Island
Community Partners' Network, Inc.
Community Wellness
Creighton University
Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families
Doctors for America
Dorchester County Health Department
Education Development Center
Ehrens Consulting
End Hep C MA
Equality California
Erie County Department of Health
Essex County Health Department
ETR
Foundation for Healthy Generations
Fund for Public Health in NYC
Garrett County Health Department
Geary County Health Department
George Mason University
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
Hawaii Public Health Association
Healthcare Ready
Health Promotion Consultants
Health Resources in Action
Healthy Savannah
Healthy Schools Campaign
Healthy Weight Partnership
Hogg Foundation for Mental Health
Immunize Nevada
Impetus - Let's Get Started LLC
Improving Kids' Environment
Indiana Minority Health Coalition
Infectious Diseases Society of America
International Association of Hepatitis Task Forces
Iowa Public Health Association
Khmer Health Advocates Inc.
KidsAndCars.org
Lactation Education Resources
Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center
La Leche League USA
Lana'i Community Health Center
LA's BEST

Legacy Community Health
Liver Health Initiative
Lotus Health and Wellness
Louisiana Public Health Association
Loving Home Hospice for Children
MaineHealth
Maine Public Health Association
Mandela Partners
March of Dimes
MaryCatherine Jones Consulting, LLC
Maryland Public Health Association
Massachusetts Association of Health Boards
Maternal and Child Health Access
Meals on Wheels America
Mendocino County AIDS/Viral Hepatitis Network
Message Carriers of Pennsylvania, Inc.
Michigan Association for Local Public Health
MidMichigan Medical Center-Alpena
Minneapolis Health Department
Mississippi Urban League
Missouri Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Montgomery County Department of Health
NASTAD
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of School Nurses
National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University
National Center for Healthy Housing
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Council on Aging
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Medical Association
National WIC Association
National Working Positive Coalition
New Jersey Public Health Association
New York State Association of County Health Officials
New York State Public Health Association
NJ SOPHE
North Bergen Health Department
North Carolina Alliance for Health
Organizational Wellness & Learning Systems
PFLAG National
Philadelphia Department of Public Health

Physicians for Social Responsibility, Arizona Chapter
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Prevent Blindness
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Primary Care Development Corporation
Public Health Advocates
Public Health Alliance of Southern California
Public Health Foundation
Public Health - Idaho North Central District
Public Health Institute
Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness
Rural Health Network of South Central New York
Safe Routes Partnership
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS)
Salvation Army Hope Harbor Center
Shoals Community Clinic
Silas H. Hunt C. D. C.
Siouxland District Health Department
Society for Prevention Research
Society for Public Health Education
Society of State Leaders of Health and Physical Education
Solera Health
South Central Family Health Center
SparksInitiatives
Staten Island Partnership for Community Wellness
St. Louis Area Business Health Coalition
Susan G. Komen
Synaptik Group, Inc.
TADAC
The Arizona Partnership for Immunization
The Ayuda Foundation/Island Girl Power
The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health
The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
Total Child Health
TRACC
Treatment Action Group
Trust for America's Health
United States Breastfeeding Committee
United States Conference of Mayors
United Way of Greenwood and Abbeville Counties
Vaccinate Your Family
Washington State Department of Health
Washington State Public Health Association

West Valley Neighborhoods Coalition
World Be Well, Inc.
Worry Free Community
Yale-Griffin Prevention Research Center
Zero Breast Cancer