

NACCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health

May 1, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi:

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) respectfully requests your continued support for vital public health programs currently funded through the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF). NACCHO and local health departments are concerned that long-standing public health programs are in jeopardy due to elimination of the PPHF in the American Health Care Act (AHCA) under consideration in the House of Representatives. NACCHO continues to have concerns despite the recently announced amendment to the AHCA.

Among the programs at risk at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are the 317 Immunization Program, Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Grants, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention program, and Diabetes Prevention program, among others. The PPHF provides vital resources to governmental public health at the federal, state, and local levels, and its elimination will serve to further erode our public health system. Investment in programs that prevent people from getting sick is a critical component to reduce health care costs.

In addition, public health leaders are concerned that the American Healthcare Act reduces funding for the Medicaid expansion in 32 states, which has provided access to primary and emergency care to millions of Americans. Eliminating public health programs that are now funded by resources authorized by the ACA would seriously undermine the ability of counties and cities to protect and promote health. The loss of hundreds of millions of dollars for public health would have repercussions in communities across the country, hampering efforts to respond to food borne outbreaks, prevent emerging infectious diseases like Ebola and Zika, and respond to natural disasters and other emergencies.

NACCHO urges you to sustain current investments in public health and prevention. Our nation needs a strong public health system with the capacity to promote health, prevent illness, and treat disease.

Sincerely,

Laura Hanen, MPP
Interim Executive Director/Chief of Government Affairs

