



April 2, 2025

Hon. Shelley Moore Capito
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Capito and Senator Baldwin,

We are pleased that Secretary Kennedy has called for raising the priority on preventing chronic diseases. Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in America, and for 4 out of 5 people, it is preventable. This gap represents a huge opportunity to reduce the human and economic burdens of heart disease and stroke. Medical and public health science provide our nation with an array of strategies and technologies demonstrated to prevent cardiovascular and metabolic disease. We can capitalize on this knowledge, innovative therapeutics, and public health tools to reverse rising heart disease and stroke death rates.

For these reasons, the 54 undersigned organizations urge Congress to maintain and strengthen the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention (CDC/DHDSP). Our organizations represent people, patients, healthcare providers, community clinics, local and state public health, and employers in all 50 states.

The Division protects the nation's heart health by providing leadership and direction in the management and prevention of cardiovascular disease. In almost all states, DHDSP is the sole source of funding to support state, local, and tribal programs to prevent heart attacks and strokes.

Furthermore, healthcare professionals, public health practitioners, employers, communities and faith-based organizations rely on scientific information and fact-based tools from CDC/DHDSP to help people improve their heart health. Funding and tools from CDC/DHDSP are cornerstones of state and community heart disease and stroke prevention. States and communities use these resources from CDC/DHDSP to help millions of Americans control their blood pressure and reduce other risk factors for cardiovascular and metabolic disease.

Notably, CDC/DHDSP has illuminated the benefits of team-based care for all ages, including children and youth who develop early stages of cardiovascular disease early in life that are too often overlooked and undermanaged. The cumulative harm of rising rates of hypertension, diabetes, and obesity in children and young people becomes devastating as adults progress through multiple disease stages, with tremendous human and economic burdens. Reversing these trends through prevention aligns with Secretary Kennedy's focus on "investigating and addressing the root causes of America's escalating health crisis, with a focus on childhood chronic disease."

By investing in prevention and proven public health strategies, the United States has a golden opportunity to eliminate the rural health deficit, reverse the rise in chronic disease risk factors in young Americans, and reduce heart disease's burden on individuals, families, communities, employers, and the nation. A strong CDC/DHDSP is critical to seizing this opportunity.

Weakening CDC/DHDSP's capacity to help states, communities, health systems, and employers turn medical and public health science into real results would hurt individuals and the economy.

We join together to urge you to maintain or increase resources for CDC/DHDSP in FY 2026. For questions, please contact John Clymer, executive director of the National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention at john.clymer@nationalforum.org or 202-903-7303.

Respectfully,

National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention, Inc.
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
Association of Black Cardiologists
American College of Cardiology
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
American Heart Association
American Pharmacists Association
American Public Health Association
Alliance for Aging Research
American Pharmacists Association Foundation
Assembly of Petworth
BallengeRx Consulting
California Chronic Care Coalition
California Hepatitis C Task Force
Carolinas-Georgia-Florida Chapter of American Society of Hypertension
Ceres Community Project
Community Education & Wellness Partners
Chronic Care Policy Alliance
City of Laurel, Maryland
Family Heart Foundation
Former U.S. Surgeon General
Health Access Strategies, Inc.
Health E Strategies LLC
Health Educated, Inc.
HealthPartners Institute
Heart Rhythm Society/ Heart Rhythm Advocates
Inspire Communication Solutions
Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force, North Carolina
Kansas Pharmacists Association

Kintegra Health
Martinsville and Henry County Virginia
Healthy Hearts Initiative Learning Collaborative
Mayor of Rochester, Minnesota
Mayor, City of West Sacramento, California
National Association of County and City Health Officials
North Carolina State University
New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center
OMRON
Osborne Consulting Group LLC
PCOS Challenge: The National Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Association
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Right Care Initiative
Roanoke Healthy Hearts Collaborative
Rosalind Wellness Guide LLC
Southern Nevada Health District
St. Christopher Truckers Fund
Stanford University
StopAfib.org, Division of the American Foundation for Women's Health
The American Society for Preventive Cardiology
The Mended Hearts, Inc.
Town of Heath, Massachusetts
University of Illinois College of Medicine
WellStyles Consulting
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease
YMCA of the USA