

February 26, 2025

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D.
Chair
Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
Ranking Member
Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chair
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Cassidy and Guthrie and Ranking Members Sanders and Pallone:

On behalf of the 200 undersigned organizations dedicated to improving the health and well-being of the nation, we write to oppose any reduction or elimination of the Prevention and Public Health Fund (Prevention Fund) during the budget reconciliation process. The Prevention Fund provides critical funding to every state and territory as well as cities and tribes to promote the health of residents and prevent epidemics.

Now is the time to shore up our country's readiness for health threats in order to save lives, protect the economy, and support national security. Experts are concerned about the potential for H5N1 avian flu to become more easily transmissible, which could have devastating health and economic consequences. The Prevention Fund provides key investments in infectious disease prevention and detection. In FY2024, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Immunization Program, which funds state immunization infrastructure and outbreak response, was entirely funded by the Prevention Fund. The Prevention Fund also supports epidemiologists and public health laboratory capacity in every state and U.S. territory to detect and investigate outbreaks and prevent further infections.

In its first 15 years (FY2010-24), the Prevention Fund invested more than \$13.5 billion in resources to states, localities, tribes, and community organizations in support of critical prevention and public health programs.¹ Elimination of the Prevention Fund would translate into funding shortfalls in programs that states have long relied upon to keep their residents healthy and safe.

¹ For more information about the Fund at Work in States, see: <https://www.tfah.org/prevention-and-public-health-fund-at-work/>

As Congress considers ways to reduce chronic disease and associated healthcare costs, cuts to the Prevention Fund would further set back those efforts. About 90 percent of the nation's more than \$4.5 trillion annual healthcare expenditures are attributable to chronic and mental health conditions, yet only about 4.7 percent of that total represents spending on public health and prevention.² Obesity alone costs the United States an estimated \$149 billion in medical expenses annually, with about half of those expenses publicly financed by Medicare and Medicaid.³ Despite spending more than any other high-income nation on treating disease, the U.S. has substantially worse health outcomes, with life expectancy declining in recent years.⁴ In order to curb these costs and support health throughout the lifespan, Congress has invested more than \$250 million from the Prevention Fund in FY2024 to prevent diabetes, heart disease, and stroke. The Tips from Former Smokers campaign, aimed at encouraging smoking cessation, helped 1 million smokers successfully quit between 2012 and 2018, prevented an estimated 129,000 early deaths, and saved roughly \$7.3 billion in smoking-related healthcare costs.⁵ In addition, the Diabetes Prevention Program has saved \$1,146 per participant in related healthcare costs.⁶ Both of these programs are either partially or fully supported by the Prevention Fund.

Across the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Prevention Fund supports programs to promote the health of our nation's growing older adult population. Investments at the Administration for Community Living include Alzheimer's disease prevention, chronic disease self-management, and fall prevention. At the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Prevention Fund bolsters suicide prevention work on college campuses and in state and tribal communities.

Eliminating the Prevention Fund without a corresponding increase for the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Services appropriations bill would leave a significant funding gap for critical health programs across HHS. With healthcare costs continuing to rise, now is not the time to cut investments in prevention that have a proven track record. We urge you to reject the proposed cuts to the Prevention Fund and ensure that public health and prevention programs across the country can carry out their mission of saving lives and improving health.

² The Impact of Chronic Underfunding on America's Public Health System: Trends, Risks, and Recommendations. Trust for America's Health, 2024. <https://www.tfah.org/report-details/funding-2024/>

³ <https://www.tfah.org/report-details/state-of-obesity-2021/>

⁴ M Gunja et al. U.S. Health Care from a Global Perspective, 2022: Accelerating Spending, Worsening Outcomes. Commonwealth Fund, 2022. <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2023/jan/us-health-care-global-perspective-2022>

⁵ Shrestha, Sundar S et al. "Cost Effectiveness of the Tips From Former Smokers® Campaign-U.S., 2012-2018." *American journal of preventive medicine* vol. 60,3 (2021): 406-410. doi:10.1016/j.amepre.2020.10.009

⁶ The Impact of Chronic Underfunding on America's Public Health System: Trends, Risks, and Recommendations. Trust for America's Health, 2024. <https://www.tfah.org/report-details/funding-2024/>

Sincerely,

AATCLC
Access Living
Action on Smoking and Health
ActivSport LLC
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants,
Children, Youth & Families
AIDS Foundation Chicago
Alliance for Aging Research
Alliance for Women's Health and Prevention
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Dental, Oral, and
Craniofacial Research
American Association for Psychoanalysis in
Clinical Social Work
American Association of Child and
Adolescent Psychiatry
American Association of Colleges of
Nursing
American Association of Veterinary
Medical Colleges
American Association on Health and
Disability
American Cancer Society Cancer Action
Network
American College of Chest Physicians
(CHEST)
American College of Obstetricians and
Gynecologists
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American College of Sports Medicine
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
American Heart Association
American Mental Health Counselors
Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society for Microbiology
American Therapeutic Recreation
Association
American Thoracic Society
Anxiety and Depression Association of
America

Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment,
Advocacy and Leadership
Association for Ambulatory Behavioral
Healthcare
Association for Professionals in Infection
Control and Epidemiology (APIC)
Association of Diabetes Care & Education
Specialists
Association of Immunization Managers
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Schools and Programs of
Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Health
Officials
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Avocates for Better Children's Diets
Bethany Community Ministries, Inc.
Big Cities Health Coalition
Breakthrough Urban Ministries
Butte County Public Health/Prevention &
Health Promotion Programs/Oral Health
School-Based Dental Program
CAEAR Coalition
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
CATCH Global Foundation
Cause Engagement Associates LLC
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Center for Whole Health Learning in K-12
CenterLink: The Community of LGBTQ
Centers
Champaign-Urbana Public Health District
(IL)
Christian Council of Delmarva
Common Threads
Council of State and Territorial
Epidemiologists
DC Public Health Association
Delaware Academy of Medicine
Delaware Public Health Association
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Dorchester County Health Department
Emergency Nurses Association
Emphysema Foundation of America
Endocrine Society

EverThrive Illinois
 Foundation for Healthy Generations
 Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research
 Fountain House
 Frey Evaluation, LLC
 Gerontological Society of America
 Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
 GO2 for Lung Cancer
 Good Days
 Granville Vance Public Health
 Health & Medicine Policy Research Group
 Health E Strategies LLC
 Health Resources in Action
 Healthy Teen Network
 Healthy Weight Partnership Inc.
 HealthyWomen
 Heluna Health
 HIMSS
 HIV Medicine Association
 HLN Consulting, LLC
 Hope Charities
 Illinois Public Health Association
 Immunize.org
 Infectious Diseases Society of America
 Inner Explorer Institute
 Institute for Public Health Innovation
 International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
 International WELL Building Institute
 Iowa Public Health Association
 Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security
 Josselyn
 Jump IN for Healthy Kids
 Kansas Association of Local Health Departments
 Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition
 Kansas Public Health Association
 Kids In Nutrition
 Lakeshore Foundation
 Leadership Council for Healthy Communities
 Little Pineapple Collaborative
 Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
 LUNgevity Foundation

Maine Public Health Association
 MaryCatherine Jones Consulting, LLC
 Maryland Coalition on HIV and Aging
 Massachusetts Health Officers Association
 Massachusetts Public Health Alliance
 NAACP
 NAMI Illinois
 NAPHSIS
 NASTAD
 National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
 National Alliance of Public Health Students and Alums
 National Association of County and City Health Officials
 National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors (NACBHDD)
 National Association of Local Boards of Health
 National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
 National Board for Certified Counselors
 National Center for Healthy Housing
 National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence
 National Coalition for LGBTQ Health
 National Consumers League
 National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians
 National Council on Aging
 National Eczema Association
 National Environmental Health Association
 National Foundation for Infectious Diseases
 National Hispanic Medical Association
 National Institute for Children's Health Quality
 National League for Nursing
 National Medical Association
 National Network of Public Health Institutes
 National Recreation and Parks Association
 National Register of Health Service Psychologists
 National Rural Health Association
 NC Public Health Association

Nebraska Association of Local Health
 Directors (NALHD)
 Nemours Children's Health
 Nevada Public Health Association
 New York State Public Health Association
 North American Quitline Consortium
 Older Women Embracing Life
 Oncology Nursing Society
 Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials
 Overdose Prevention Initiative
 Partners In Health
 Peggy Lillis Foundation
 Pennsylvania Public Health Association
 Prevent Blindness
 Prevention Institute
 Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses
 Association
 Primary Care Development Corporation
 Psychotherapy Action Network
 Public Health Advocates
 Public Health Foundation
 Public Health Institute
 Public Health Management Corporation
 (PHMC)
 Pulmonary Hypertension Association
 Research!America
 Respiratory Health Association
 Safe Routes Partnership
 Safe States Alliance
 Sage Transformations
 Save A Girl Save A World
 Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and
 Interventions
 Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of
 America

Society for Public Health Education
 Society for Research on Nicotine & Tobacco
 Inc
 Society for Women's Health Research
 Spina Bifida Association
 STChealth
 Tennessee Public Health Association
 The 317 Coalition
 The AIDS Institute
 The Center for Science in the Public Interest
 (CSPI)
 The Change Factor
 The Joy Labs
 The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health
 The National Alliance to Advance
 Adolescent Health/Got Transition
 The National Pancreas Foundation
 The People's Lobby
 The Task Force for Global Health
 Tourette Association of America
 Trust for America's Health
 United States Breastfeeding Committee
 Utah Public Health Association
 Vaccinate Your Family
 Voices for Vaccines
 wAIHA Warriors
 Washington State Association of Local
 Public Health Officials
 Washington State Public Health Association
 Western Youth Services
 Wisconsin Association of Local Health
 Departments and Boards
 Wisconsin Public Health Association
 YMCA of the USA

cc: The Honorable Mike Johnson, The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, The Honorable John
 Thune, The Honorable Chuck Schumer, The Honorable Tom Cole, The Honorable Rosa
 DeLauro, The Honorable Susan Collins, The Honorable Patty Murray