



July 12, 2016

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
 Chairman  
 Committee on Appropriations  
 United States House of Representatives  
 Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
 Ranking Member  
 Committee on Appropriations  
 United States House of Representatives  
 Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey:

We are writing to express our strong opposition to the \$110 million funding cut in the House FY 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Office on Smoking and Health (OSH). As your Committee moves forward with the bill, we urge you to restore this funding and allocate at least \$210 million to OSH, which is the amount Congress enacted for FY 2016. The work that OSH does is critical to ending the tobacco epidemic that takes far too many lives and exacts an enormous financial toll on the nation's economy.

While we have made great strides in reducing tobacco use, there is still more work to be done. Tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of death in the United States. Every year, it kills more than 480,000 Americans and is responsible for an estimated \$170 billion in health care costs. Nearly 60 percent of these health care costs are paid by government programs such as Medicare and Medicaid.

OSH leads federal efforts to reduce the death and disease caused by tobacco by funding activities that help to prevent youth from starting to use tobacco and help adult tobacco users to quit. For example, OSH funds the highly successful national media campaign, Tips from Former Smokers.

During a nine week phase of the Tips campaign in 2014, 1.8 million Americans were motivated to make a quit attempt and 104,000 smokers quit. The campaign is highly cost-effective with a cost of just \$393 per year of life saved, far below the \$50,000 that is an accepted benchmark for cost-effective public health programs. The media campaign continues to generate substantial increases in call volumes to the national quitline number and visits to the associated website. The House's proposed funding cut would make it virtually impossible for CDC to continue this vital campaign.

OSH also provides funding to states for quitlines, which provide telephone-based counseling to help tobacco users quit and, in some states, provide tobacco cessation medications. Quitlines greatly increase the chances that a smoker will quit successfully. OSH provides funding and technical assistance to health departments in all states to help maintain and enhance tobacco prevention and cessation programs at the state and community level. OSH also conducts critical research about the prevalence of tobacco use and alerts policy makers about trends in tobacco use such as the recent dramatic increase in e-cigarette use among adolescents.

Investing in effective tobacco prevention and cessation programs saves lives and reduces health costs from treating tobacco-related diseases. Cuts to OSH funding would lead to more young people using tobacco products, fewer adult tobacco users quitting, more people with tobacco-caused diseases, more premature deaths, and higher future health care costs for treating tobacco-caused disease. As you advance appropriations legislation for FY 2017, we respectfully request that you restore funding for CDC's Office on Smoking and Health to a minimum of its current \$210 million funding level so it can continue its important tobacco prevention and cessation work.

Sincerely,

Academy of General Dentistry  
Action on Smoking & Health  
Altarum Institute Center for Prevention  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology  
American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association for Cancer Research  
American Association for Dental Research  
American Association for Respiratory Care  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

American Heart Association  
American Lung Association  
American Medical Association  
American Medical Student Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
American Thoracic Society  
Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids  
Cancer Prevention and Treatment Fund  
ClearWay Minnesota  
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America  
Eta Sigma Gamma - National Health Education Honorary  
International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer  
Lung Cancer Alliance  
March of Dimes  
National African American Tobacco Prevention Network  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors  
National Network of Public Health Institutes  
North American Quitline Consortium  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Oral Health America  
Prevention Institute  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions  
The Society of State Leaders of Health and Physical Education  
Trust for America's Health

CC: Appropriations Committee Members