



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.