

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.<sup>1</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup> In addition, the Diabetes Prevention Program has saved \$1,146 per participant in related healthcare costs.<sup>6</sup> 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.

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<sup>2</sup> 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/>

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

<sup>4</sup> 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>

<sup>5</sup> 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

<sup>6</sup> 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  
LUNGeivity 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