June 18, 2019

Senator Richard Blumenthal  
706 Hart Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Doris Matsui  
2311 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Blumenthal and Congresswoman Matsui:

On behalf of the more than 180 undersigned organizations, we are writing to thank you for the introduction of the Public Health Funding Restoration Act, a bill that will restore funding for the Prevention and Public Health Fund (Prevention Fund). Support for the Prevention Fund will help expand and strengthen critical prevention and public health activities that improve our nation’s health and help reduce health care costs.

The Prevention Fund, established under Section 4002 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA, P.L. 111-148, as amended), is a dedicated funding stream intended to strengthen our country’s public health system, invest in proven prevention programs, and directly support states and communities to address their most pressing health challenges. In FY2019, more than 11 percent of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) budget was supplied through Prevention Fund investments. This includes funding for core public health activities, such as the 317 Immunization Program, tobacco cessation, chronic disease prevention, infectious disease response, and other critical programs to help states and local organizations keep communities healthy and safe.

Public health is chronically underfunded. As public health faces 21st century threats – such as the substance misuse and suicide epidemics, infectious disease outbreaks, and increases in chronic disease rates – resources have not kept pace. The Prevention Fund represented an unprecedented investment in prevention and public health, with the allocation intended to grow from $500 million in FY2010 to $2 billion in FY2015 and each subsequent fiscal year. Due to cuts and offsets that did not reflect the original intent of the Fund (promotion of prevention and public health), however, the Prevention Fund is now scheduled to reach $2 billion in FY2028, 13 years later than authorized. Despite funding essential public health work, the Prevention Fund has already been cut by $11.85 billion from FY2013-FY2027.

Current public health threats such as the opioid epidemic and outbreaks like measles highlight an ongoing need to invest in health and prevention. These programs are life-saving and cost-effective. A 2017 systematic review of the return on investment of public health interventions in high-income countries found a median return of 14 to 1.\footnote{Masters R, Anwar E, Collins B, Cookson R, Capewell S. Return on investment of public health interventions: a systematic review. J Epidemiol Community Health 71(8):827-34, 2017. http://jech.bmj.com/content/jech/early/2017/03/07/jech-2016-208141.full.pdf} \textit{Tips from Former Smokers} has led to

over 500,000 Americans quitting smoking for good.\textsuperscript{2} And CDC estimates that every dollar spent on childhood immunization saves society more than $10, and childhood immunizations prevented 855,000 early deaths over 23 years.\textsuperscript{3} Despite the growing burden of largely preventable diseases and strong evidence supporting investments in prevention, federal disease prevention and public health programs remain critically underfunded.

The Prevention Fund is a dedicated investment in prevention and public health activities to counteract the much larger bill – $3.2 trillion and growing – we pay every year as a country to treat illness and disease. That is why the Public Health Funding Restoration Act is a critical step to increase federal investment in public health programs to prevent injury and illness and reduce our health care costs. Specifically, the Public Health Funding Restoration Act:

- Restores funding to the PPHF to $2 billion for FY2020 and all subsequent years;
- Reaffirms the importance of prevention and public health programs to HHS, and local and state health departments’ efforts to prevent and control the spread of disease;
- Reaffirms the importance of the programs/activities that the Prevention Fund supports on the federal, state, and local level;
- Acknowledges the effectiveness of prevention campaigns in preventing disease and death;
- Acknowledges cost savings associated with investments in preventive medicine and community-based prevention efforts; and
- Recognizes that cuts to the Prevention Fund undermine public health, and undermine efforts to create an affordable and accessible health care system.

We thank you for sponsoring the Public Health Funding Restoration Act in order to strengthen our nation’s ability to develop innovative programs that can respond to new or existing infectious disease threats, help reduce the burden of chronic disease, and enable Americans to live longer, healthier lives.

Sincerely,

1,000 Days
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Oncology DPG
Advocates for Better Children's Diets
African American Health Alliance
AIDS Action Baltimore
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
Akeso Consulting

\textsuperscript{2} Tips\textsuperscript{®} Impact and Results. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/campaign/tips/about/impact/campaign-impact-results.html](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/campaign/tips/about/impact/campaign-impact-results.html)

Colorado School Medicaid Consortium  
Community Health Action of Staten Island  
Community Partners' Network, Inc.  
Community Wellness  
Creighton University  
Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families  
Doctors for America  
Dorchester County Health Department  
Education Development Center  
Ehrens Consulting  
End Hep C MA  
Equality California  
Erie County Department of Health  
Essex County Health Department  
ETR  
Foundation for Healthy Generations  
Fund for Public Health in NYC  
Garrett County Health Department  
Geary County Health Department  
George Mason University  
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice  
Hawaii Public Health Association  
Healthcare Ready  
Health Promotion Consultants  
Health Resources in Action  
Healthy Savannah  
Healthy Schools Campaign  
Healthy Weight Partnership  
Hogg Foundation for Mental Health  
Immunize Nevada  
Impetus - Let's Get Started LLC  
Improving Kids' Environment  
Indiana Minority Health Coalition  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
International Association of Hepatitis Task Forces  
Iowa Public Health Association  
Khmer Health Advocates Inc.  
KidsAndCars.org  
Lactation Education Resources  
Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center  
La Leche League USA  
Lana’i Community Health Center  
LA's BEST
Physicians for Social Responsibility, Arizona Chapter
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Prevent Blindness
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Primary Care Development Corporation
Public Health Advocates
Public Health Alliance of Southern California
Public Health Foundation
Public Health - Idaho North Central District
Public Health Institute
Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness
Rural Health Network of South Central New York
Safe Routes Partnership
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS)
Salvation Army Hope Harbor Center
Shoals Community Clinic
Silas H. Hunt C. D. C.
Siouxland District Health Department
Society for Prevention Research
Society for Public Health Education
Society of State Leaders of Health and Physical Education
Solera Health
South Central Family Health Center
SparksInitiatives
Staten Island Partnership for Community Wellness
St. Louis Area Business Health Coalition
Susan G. Komen
Synaptik Group, Inc.
TADAC
The Arizona Partnership for Immunization
The Ayuda Foundation/Island Girl Power
The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health
The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
Total Child Health
TRACC
Treatment Action Group
Trust for America’s Health
United States Breastfeeding Committee
United States Conference of Mayors
United Way of Greenwood and Abbeville Counties
Vaccinate Your Family
Washington State Department of Health
Washington State Public Health Association
West Valley Neighborhoods Coalition
World Be Well, Inc.
Worry Free Community
Yale-Griffin Prevention Research Center
Zero Breast Cancer