



April 4, 2016

The Honorable Roy Blunt
 Chairman
 Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
 Services, Education, and Related Agencies
 Committee on Appropriations
 United States Senate
 Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
 Ranking Member
 Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
 Services, Education, and Related Agencies
 Committee on Appropriations
 United States Senate
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

As your Subcommittee moves forward with the FY 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we urge you to allocate at least \$210 million to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Office on Smoking and Health (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.

OSH also provides funding to states for quitlines, which provide telephone-based counseling to help tobacco users to 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 will save lives and reduce health costs from treating tobacco-related diseases. As you develop appropriations legislation for FY 2017, we respectfully request that CDC's Office on Smoking and Health receive at least \$210 million so it can continue its important tobacco prevention and cessation work.

Sincerely,

Academy of General Dentistry
Action on Smoking & Health
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 Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American School Health Association
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Thoracic Society
Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and
Neonatal Nurses
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
March of Dimes
National African American Tobacco Prevention
Network
National Association of County & City Health
Officials
National Latino Alliance for Health Equity
National Network of Public Health Institutes
Oncology Nursing Society
Prevention Institute
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and
Interventions
Society for Public Health Education
Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco
The Society of State Leaders of Health and
Physical Education
Trust for America's Health

CC: Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee
Members