

Harold P. Wimmer
National President and
CEO

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Shelby, Chairwoman Lowey, Vice Chair Leahy, and Ranking Member Granger:

As you and your colleagues work to finalize appropriations for Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20), the American Lung Association asks that you continue to provide meaningful investment for critical programs and activities. The American Lung Association encourages a balanced approach that provides adequate support for medical research and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) along with additional resources for public health programs, especially at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Once again, we also ask for your leadership in ensuring a “clean” appropriations process by opposing all harmful policy riders that would jeopardize the ability to complete the FY20 process, most notably riders that weaken key lung health protections established by the *Clean Air Act* and the *Tobacco Control Act*. Policy riders have no place in appropriations bills and the American Lung Association strongly opposes attempts to include them, especially riders that would make it harder to protect Americans from air pollution and children from tobacco products.

The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through education, advocacy and research. Lung disease is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States and lung cancer is the leading cancer killer among both women and men. Twenty-five million people, including six million children, suffer from asthma. The nation is making progress to combat this toll, but this advancement can only continue with sustained investment and strong laws that are not weakened by policy riders.

For FY20, please support the following funding levels and programs:

Advocacy Office:

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American Lung Association Appropriations Priorities

Fiscal Year 2020

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
Defense

Labor-Health and Human Services-Education (LHHS)

- Please provide the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with \$8.3 billion as proposed by the House FY 20 L-HHS Appropriations Bill; including:
 - o \$34 million for the Asthma program within the National Center for Environmental Health.
 - o \$15 million for the Climate and Health program within the National Center for Environmental Health
 - o \$1.07 billion for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.
 - \$250 million for the Tobacco program.
 - **Establish a line-item program for Chronic Disease Education and Awareness with at least \$3 million in initial support.** This program is outlined in the FY20 House L-HHS Appropriations Bill and will help facilitate key COPD activities from the *National COPD Action Plan*.
 - o \$346.3 million for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.
 - o \$1.15 billion for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STDs, and TB.
 - o \$152.26 million for the TB program
 - o \$523.62 million for Global Health.
 - o \$10 million for the Global TB program.
- Please provide the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with \$42.1 billion, as proposed by the Senate FY 20 L-HHS Appropriations Bill. Please also provide proportional funding increases for all NIH Institutes and Centers.

Interior and Environment (Int-Env)

- Please provide the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with \$274.28 million for the Clean Air program, as proposed by the House FY20 Int-Env Appropriations Bill.
- Please provide EPA with \$238.22 million for the State and Local Air Quality Management program, as proposed by the House FY20 Int-Env Appropriations Bill.
- Please provide EPA with \$14.83 million for the Tribal Air Quality program, as proposed by the House FY 2020 Int-Env Appropriations Bill.
- Please provide EPA with \$100 million for the Diesel Emissions Reduction Grants program.
- Please provide EPA with \$8.05 million for the Categorical Grant: Radon program, as proposed by the House FY20 Int-Env Appropriations Bill.
- Please provide EPA with 103.67 million for Compliance activities as proposed by the House FY20 Int-Env Appropriations Bill.
- Please provide EPA with \$255.5 million for Enforcement activities as proposed by the House FY20 Int-Env Appropriations Bill.
- Please provide \$15 million for a new program to protect Americans from wildfire smoke in any final FY20 appropriations measure.

American Lung Association Appropriations Priorities

Fiscal Year 2020

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
Defense

Department of Defense (DoD)

- Please provide the stand-alone Peer-Reviewed Lung Cancer Program with \$14 million, as proposed by the House FY20 DoD Appropriations Bill.
- Please provide the Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP) with \$350 million, as proposed by the Senate FY20 DoD Appropriations Bill and continue to include the following conditions on the annual eligible conditions list; burn pit exposure, constrictive bronchiolitis, gulf war illness, pulmonary fibrosis, respiratory health.
- Please also add “tuberculosis” to the final FY20 PRMRP eligible conditions list, consistent with FY 2019 and previous years.

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

- Please provide HUD with \$10 million as proposed by the House for the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes

State, Foreign Operations, and Related Agencies (SFOPS)

- Please provide \$9.3 billion for Global Health, as proposed by the House FY20 SFOPS Appropriations Bill.
 - o Please provide \$310 million for tuberculosis, as proposed by both the Senate and House FY20 SFOPS Appropriations Bills.
 - o Please provide \$15 million for global TB drug facilities, as proposed by both the Senate and House FY20 SFOPS Appropriations Bills.

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies (MilConVA)

- Please provide the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research Program with \$840 million, as proposed by the House FY20 MilConVA Appropriations Bill.

The American Lung Association is grateful for your ongoing support. Please contact Laura Kate Bender (Laura.Bender@Lung.org or 202-715-3457) for any questions about our FY20 Interior-Environment Appropriations Bill priorities or Erika Sward (Erika.Sward@Lung.org or 202-715-3451) for questions about any priorities from other spending bills.

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations.

Sincerely,



Harold P. Wimmer
National President and CEO

