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The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

May 3, 2013

Dear Mr. President:

As leaders of organizations dedicated to improving the health of all Americans we are thankful for your longtime leadership and support for expanding the nation's commitment to wellness and prevention. However, we write today to express our disappointment in the diversion of a significant portion of the Prevention and Public Health Fund in Fiscal Year 2013.

We recognize that in its recent consideration of a Continuing Resolution for Fiscal Year 2013, Congress failed to do its job in appropriating funds for Affordable Care Act (ACA) implementation, including the health exchanges, while at the same time declining to provide detailed allocations for the Prevention Fund. This left your Administration with difficult decisions on how to allocate resources to implementation the health exchanges and for public health programs.

Enrolling more people in health insurance is critical to ensure people gain access to life-saving and life-extending services, including essential preventive services. However, it is just as important that people have access to the support they need outside the doctor's office to become and remain healthy to potentially avoid those life-threatening health situations. We are concerned that further cuts to the Prevention Fund will compromise our ability to make progress on cost containment, public health modernization and wellness promotion.

For Fiscal Year 2013, between the effects of sequestration (\$51 million) and the net diversion of resources for implementation of health exchanges (\$332 million) programs currently supported by the Prevention Fund are faced with a more than 38 percent cut from Fiscal Year 2012. By statute, those programs are intended for "expanded and sustained national investment in prevention and public health programs to improve health and help restrain the rate of growth in private and public sector health care costs." The final allocations, as publicly posted on April 16th by the Department of Health and Human Services, leave gaping holes in community prevention, immunization, substance abuse and mental health, and efforts to reduce health disparities.

The Prevention Fund is a critical piece of the ACA because it is our first sustained national investment in prevention and public health and is designed to address the leading risk factors of chronic diseases, which account for 70 percent of all deaths and 75 percent of all Medicare spending. It is intended to ensure a coordinated, comprehensive, sustainable and accountable approach to improving our country's health outcomes through the most effective prevention and public health programs.

Through Fiscal Year 2013, the Prevention Fund will have invested \$3.25 billion in resources that have supported states, localities, tribal communities and community organizations in all 50 states for community prevention, tobacco use prevention, obesity prevention and fitness, and clinical prevention. For example, the Fund has made possible the highly successful Tips from Former Smokers cessation campaign, as well as Community Transformation Grants, in which funded communities are bringing together a diverse set of sectors to address their most pressing health challenges.

Your budget for Fiscal Year 2014 restores the Prevention Fund allocations to their original intent. Effective, affordable health care is essential for improving health, but prevention must become a higher priority in America's health strategy in order to effectively contain costs and improve health. Thus we look forward to working with your Administration to assure that these allocations remain focused on prevention.

We look to your continued leadership in promoting the health of all Americans.

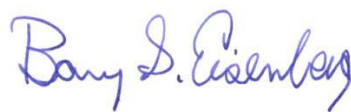
Sincerely,

cc: Secretary Kathleen Sebelius

Health Agencies • National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors • National Assembly on School-Based Health Care • National Association for Children's Behavioral Health • National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems • National Association of Counties • National Association of County and City Health Officials • National Business Coalition on Health • National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare • National Council on Aging • National Minority AIDS Council • National Network of Public Health Institutes • National Physicians Alliance • National Recreation and Park Association • National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable • New Mexico Consumer Advocacy Coalition • NJ Public Health Institute • Novo Nordisk • Oregon Collaborative for Integrative Medicine • Oregon Public Health Institute • Pacific Northwest Society for Public Health Education • Polk County Health Department • Prevent Blindness America • Prevention Institute • Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association • Project Healthy Lifestyle • Public Health Association of Nebraska • Public Health Foundation • Public Health Institute • Public Health Solutions • Seattle & King County Department of Public Health • Safe Routes to School National Partnership • Safe States Alliance • Snohomish Health District • Society for Public Health Education • Society of Behavioral Medicine • South Carolina Eat Smart Move More Coalition • Special Needs Network • Spokane Regional Health District • Support for Early Learning & Families • Southwest Washington Behavioral Health Mental Health Advisory Board • Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department • Thurston County Board of Health • Trust for America's Health • U.S. Breastfeeding Committee • Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio • University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health • Voices for America's Children • Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials • Washington State Board of Health • Washington State Medical Association • Washington State Nurses Association • Washington State Public Health Association • Wellco • Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health • Yale University Prevention Research Center



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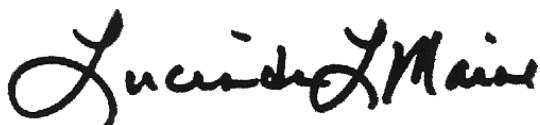
Larry Hausner
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Michael Kaplan
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Harold Wimmer
National President and Chief Executive Officer
American Lung Association



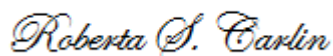
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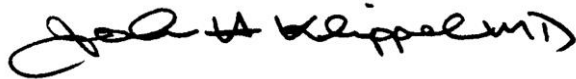
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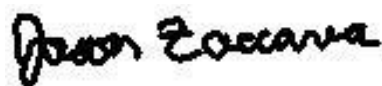
Harrison Spencer
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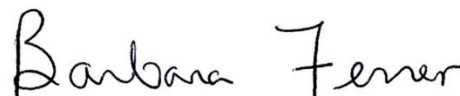
Karen Probert
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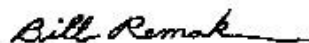
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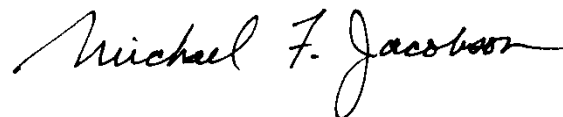
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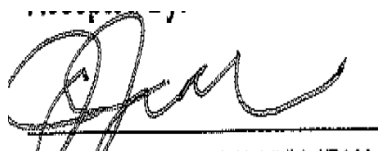
Tim Leavitt
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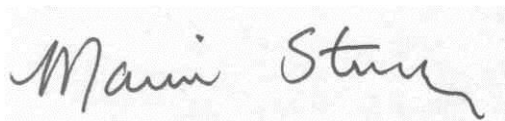
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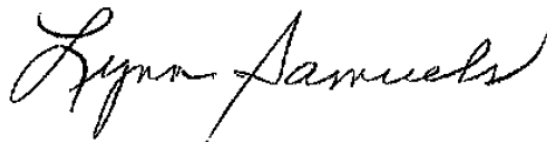
Belhaim Sakuma
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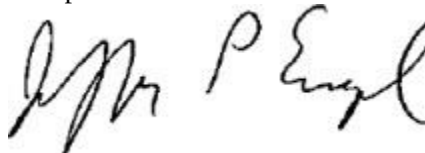
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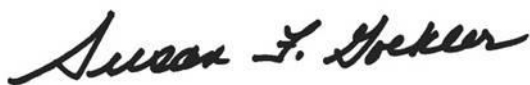
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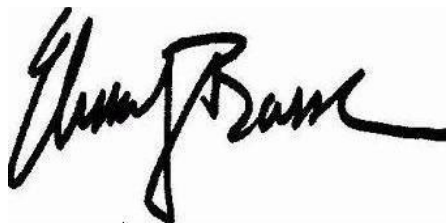
Ron Goetzel
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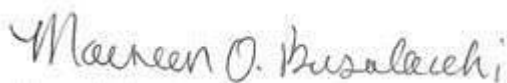
Janine Lewis
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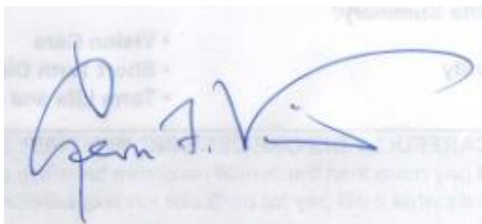
Elissa Bassler
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Nancy Young
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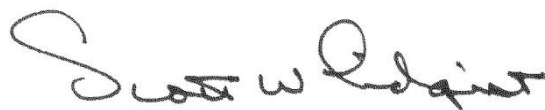
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Mary Ann Contreras RN

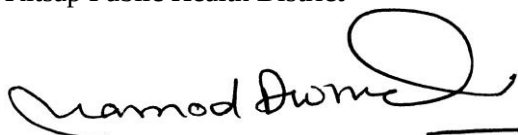
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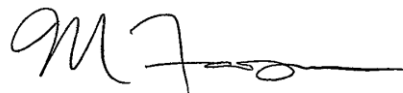
Maren Stewart
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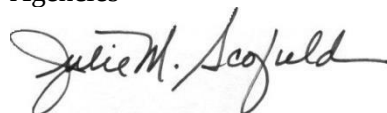
Teresa Earle
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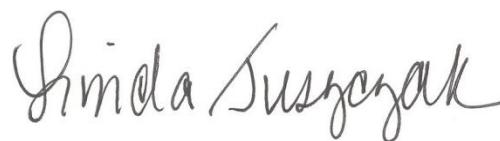
Michael Fagen
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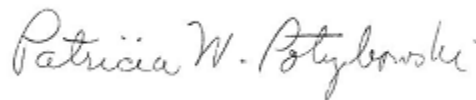
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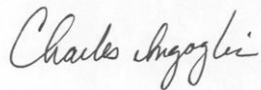
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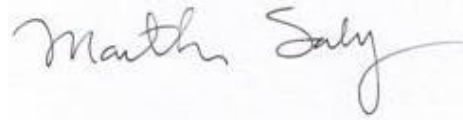
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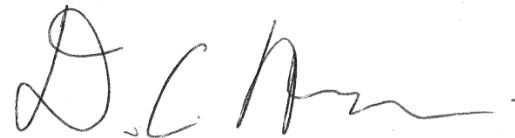
Cheryl Bettigole
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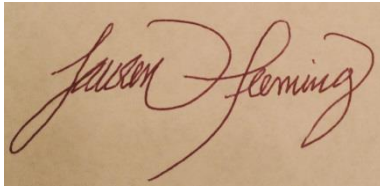
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Larry Cohen
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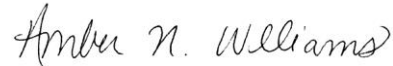
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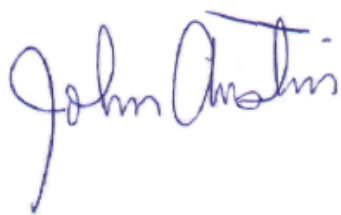
Cathy Carothers
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John Austin
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Scott Foster
President
Wellco



Nicholas Rajacich, MD
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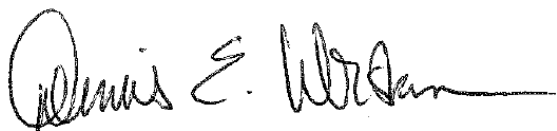
Sara Finger
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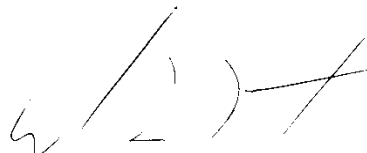
Judith Huntington
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Anthony Chen
Director of Health
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David Katz
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