

March 3, 2021

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 150 undersigned organizations, we are writing to thank you for the introduction of the Public Health Funding Prevents Pandemics Act, a bill that will restore funding for the Prevention and Public Health Fund (Prevention Fund). 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 FY2021, the Prevention Fund supplied nearly 11 percent of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) annual budget, including funding for every state. The Prevention Fund supports the Section 317 Immunization Program and the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity grants, which provide critical investments for states and localities to vaccinate their populations and track emerging health threats, two major areas of need in the COVID-19 pandemic. Other key core public health activities supported by the Prevention Fund include 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 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 1.¹ And CDC estimates that every dollar spent on childhood immunization saves society more than \$10 and that they prevented 855,000 early deaths over 23 years.² CDC's Tips from Former Smokers media campaign, funded by the Prevention Fund, has led to over 1 million Americans quitting smoking for good in just 10 years.³

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 is far from its original funding level. Due to cuts and offsets that do not reflect the original authorized intent of the Fund, the Prevention Fund is scheduled to reach \$2 billion in FY2028, 13

¹ 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>

² U.S. Public Health Response. Testimony of CDC before House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. Feb 27, 2019. <https://www.cdc.gov/washington/testimony/2019/t20190227.htm>

³ Tips® Impact and Results. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/campaign/tips/about/impact/campaign-impact-results.html>

years later than the intended date. Despite funding essential public health work, the Prevention Fund has already been cut by \$11.85 billion from FY2013-FY2027.

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 Prevents Pandemics 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 Prevents Pandemics Act:

- Restores funding to the PPHF to \$2 billion for FY2021 and all subsequent years;
- Reaffirms the importance of the Prevention Fund's programs to HHS, and local and state health departments' efforts to prevent and control the spread of disease;
- 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 Prevents Pandemics 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,

ADAP Advocacy Association
Advocates for Better Children's Diets
AIDS Action Baltimore
The AIDS Institute
AIDS United
AJ Rosen & Associates LLC
Akeso Consulting
Alexandria, VA Health Department
American Association on Health and Disability
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Medical Student Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Microbiology
American Thoracic Society
America's Blood Center
Asian Health Coalition
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Association of State Public Health Nutritionists
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Autism Society of America
Benton-Franklin Health District (WA)
Big Cities Health Coalition
Boldly Empowering U: Lending A Helping Hand, LLC
California Academy of Preventive Medicine
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
Cause Engagement Associates
Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of the Elderly (CARIE)
The Center for Health Affairs
Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY
Center for Popular Democracy Action
Central Connecticut Health District
ChangeLab Solutions
Children's Environmental Health Network
Colorado School Medicaid Consortium
Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc. (COA)
Community Access National Network (CANN)

Community Health Council of Wyandotte
County (KS)
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Niagara
County (NY)
Delaware Academy of Medicine and the
Delaware Public Health Association
Dorchester County Health Department
East New York Gotham Health Center
East Shore District Health Department
EBLC
Education Development Center
Ehrens Consulting
Element Health, Inc.
EndHepCMA
Endocrine Society
Eta Sigma Gamma
Foundation for Healthy Generations
The Foundation for Sustainable Communities
Future of Life Institute
Galaxy Aviation Corp
Garrett Health Department
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and
Social Justice
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative, Inc
Hawaii Public Health Institute
Health Care Improvement Foundation
Health in Justice Action Lab, Northeastern
University
Health Promotion Consultants
Health Resources in Action
HealthHIV
Healthy Schools Campaign
HIV Medicine Association
HLN Consulting, LLC
Hollywood Senior Center
I am Will Project
Illinois Public Health Institute
Immunization Action Coalition
The Immunization Partnership
Immunize Nevada
Indiana Public Health Association
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Institute for Health and Productivity Studies at
the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public
Health
Johnson County Public Health (IA)
KEYS 4 HealthyKids

Lakeshore Foundation
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health
Macoupin County Public Health Department
(IL)
Maine Public Health Association
Maine Resilience Building Network
Maryland Association of County Health Officers
Maryland Public Health Association
MCAVHN Care and Prevention Network
Mel Leaman Free Clinic
Minnesota Society for Public Health Education
MS Public Health Association
National Association of Area Agencies on
Aging
National Association of Pediatric Nurse
Practitioners
National Association of State and Territorial
AIDS Directors
National Capital Area SOPHE
National Center for Health Research
National Coalition for LGBT Health
National Council on Aging
National League for Nursing
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
National Recreation and Park Association
Nemours Children's Health System
Nevada Public Health Association
New Jersey Public Health Association
New Progressive Alliance
New York State Association for Rural Health
New York State Public Health Association
NSU Undergraduate Public Health Student
Association
Ohio Public Health Association
Partners in Care Foundation
Peggy Lillis Foundation
Prevent Blindness
Prevention Access Campaign - U=U
Prevention Institute
Public Health Alliance of Southern California
Public Health Foundation
Public Health Institute
Public Health Management Corporation
Public Health Solutions
Reach Out for Change

Redstone Global Center for Prevention and
Wellness GWU
Respiratory Health Association
RiverStone Health
Safe States Alliance
Senior Resources - Agency on Aging
Society of Behavioral Medicine
The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of
America
Society for Public Health Education
Society of State Leaders of Health and Physical
Education
Southern Nevada Health District
Spina Bifida Association
Susan G. Komen
Talbot County Health Department
Texas Health Institute
Town of Southwick, MA
Treatment Action Group
Tri-County Health Department
Trust for America's Health
University of Maryland School of Public Health
Victory Women of Vision
The Wall Las Memorias
Washington State Association of Local Public
Health Officials
Washington State Department of Health
Washington State Public Health Association
West Valley Neighborhoods Coalition
Wisconsin Public Health Association
Worry Free Community
YOUR Center