



April 21, 2025

Dear Senator/Representative:

I write to you with the American Lung Association's appropriations requests for fiscal year 2026 (FY26). 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. Millions of people nationwide – including people with chronic diseases like asthma, COPD and lung cancer – rely on federal funding for research, chronic disease prevention and education to safeguard their health and well-being.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Institutes for Health (NIH) are key public health agencies that improve the lives of all Americans, especially those at risk of or living with lung disease. Investments in these agencies help prevent costly hospitalizations, reduce emergency room visits and promote healthier communities – ultimately saving both lives and taxpayer dollars. But these investments are at risk, leaving millions vulnerable to disease and driving up healthcare costs.

Continued youth tobacco use, worsening environmental hazards and the increasing prevalence of chronic lung diseases underscore the urgent demand for federal investment in lung health. However, instead of making people healthy and lowering costs, federal agencies are being prevented from operating functionally. The ongoing shift of appropriations powers away from Congress is allowing arbitrary choices and politics – not data-driven, transparent decision-making – to dictate funding priorities. Agency restructuring and reductions in force have eliminated programs that have a strong return on investment and bipartisan support. For programs that remain, the ongoing uncertainty is weakening progress. These dynamics are eroding the very public health infrastructure and bio-research enterprise that Congress has long supported.

The American Lung Association takes seriously our responsibility as the trusted champions for lung health to advocate for the resources necessary to protect people's lungs, prevent future healthcare costs and keep people healthy. We continue to advocate for sustained, robust and predictable funding for key public health agencies in FY26 – specifically \$11.6 billion for CDC, \$12 billion for EPA and \$51.3 billion for NIH. We in turn ask for your leadership in taking responsibility for the health and well-being of your constituents by restoring funding for these critical lung health programs.

Additionally, we ask for your leadership in opposing adding policy riders to appropriations bills. Policy riders can undermine public health efforts, jeopardizing the health and safety of your constituents. The Lung Association opposes all riders, especially policy provisions that would weaken key lung health protections provided by the Clean Air Act and the Tobacco Control Act.

The American Lung Association thanks Congress for previous support for key lung health programs. Please contact Liz Scott (Liz.Scott@Lung.org or 202-481-7668) for questions about our Interior-Environment bill requests or Ranjana Caple (Ranjana.Caple@Lung.org or 202-481-7647) for questions about any of the other requests.

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations.

Sincerely,

Harold P. Wimmer
President and CEO

American Lung Association FY26 Appropriations Priorities

Appropriations Bill	Agencies/Programs	FY26 Funding Request
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Topline	\$11.6 billion
	CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP)	\$3.75 billion
	CDC's Chronic Disease Education and Awareness Program (CDEA)	\$6 million
	CDC's Office on Smoking and Health (OSH)	\$310 million
	CDC's National Center for Environmental Health	\$420.85
	CDC's National Asthma Control Program (NACP)	\$40 million
	CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD)	\$1.26 billion
	CDC's Coronavirus and Other Respiratory Viruses Division (CORVD)	\$70 million
	National Institutes of Health (NIH) Topline	\$51.3 billion
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Topline	\$12 billion
	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry	\$100 million
	EPA's Clean Air Program	\$915.5 million
	EPA's State and Local Air Quality Management Grants	\$500 million
	EPA's Tribal Air Quality Management Grants	\$85.25 million
	EPA's Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant Program	\$150 million
	EPA's Radon Program	\$5 million
	EPA's State Indoor Radon Grants	\$18 million
	EPA's Office of Air and Radiation Indoor Environments Division	\$100 million
	EPA's Compliance Monitoring	\$162.1 million
	EPA's Enforcement	\$485
	EPA's Environmental Justice	\$369.1 million
	Wildfire Smoke Preparedness	\$15 million
Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies	Authorized User Fees for the Center for Tobacco Products	\$712 million
Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies	DOE's Vehicle Technologies Office	\$501.7 million
Transportation-Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies	Office of Lead Hazard and Healthy Homes	\$606 million
	Healthy Homes Initiative	\$100 million
Defense	Lung Cancer Research in the Congressional Directed Medical Research Programs	\$20 million