



March 14, 2019

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
 Chairwoman  
 Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
 Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
 Committee on Appropriations  
 United States House of Representatives  
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
 Ranking Member  
 Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
 Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
 Committee on Appropriations  
 United States House of Representatives  
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As your Subcommittee moves forward with the FY 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we urge you to increase funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Office on Smoking and Health (OSH) by \$100 million, for a total of \$310 million. This increase is needed to respond to soaring e-cigarette usage rates among youth and the devastating toll that tobacco continues to take on our nation's health.

Tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of death in the United States. Each year, it kills more than 480,000 Americans and is responsible for approximately \$170 billion in health care costs. Nearly

one in three heart disease deaths and cancer deaths and nearly eight in 10 chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) deaths are caused by tobacco use.

We are at a critical juncture in the fight against tobacco use. After making tremendous progress in reducing youth tobacco use over the past several decades, e-cigarettes are threatening to undermine declines in youth smoking and overall youth tobacco use. Youth use of electronic cigarettes has skyrocketed in the United States, reaching what the FDA Commissioner and the U.S. Surgeon General have called “epidemic” levels. The 2018 National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS) showed that, between 2017 and 2018, current e-cigarette use increased by 78 percent among high school students and by 48 percent among middle school students. Driven by this surge in e-cigarette use, 27.1 percent of high school students reported current use of at least one tobacco product in 2018 – the highest rate in 14 years. At the same time, progress in reducing youth cigarette use has stalled. The high school smoking rate went from 7.6 percent in 2017 to 8.1 percent in 2018.

OSH has a vital role to play in addressing this serious public health problem. OSH provides grants to states and territories to support tobacco prevention and cessation programs, runs a highly successful national media campaign called Tips from Former Smokers (Tips), conducts research on tobacco use, and develops best practices for reducing it. Additional resources will allow OSH to address the new threat to public health posed by skyrocketing rates of youth e-cigarette use while continuing to prevent and reduce other forms of tobacco use. With additional resources:

- CDC could effectively respond to the new youth e-cigarette epidemic, including providing more resources to state and local health departments; educating youth, parents, health professionals and others about these products and the harms associated with their use; and identifying evidence-based strategies to protect kids.
- CDC could expand a program that we know works: the Tips media campaign. Between 2012 and 2015, Tips motivated over nine million smokers to make a quit attempt, helped over 500,000 smokers to successfully quit, and saved at least 50,000 people from premature death. Increasing the number of weeks Tips is on the air each year and the frequency with which the ads are run will help even more smokers to quit.
- CDC could strengthen efforts to assist groups disproportionately harmed by tobacco products. Despite the progress made in reducing tobacco use, certain populations and regions of the country continue to suffer substantially higher rates of tobacco use and tobacco-related disease and premature death. Targeted assistance would help address these disparities.

We appreciate the \$210 million that your Subcommittee approved for CDC’s tobacco use prevention and cessation programs for FY 2019. Investing in tobacco prevention and cessation will save lives and reduce the cost of treating tobacco-caused disease. For FY 2020, we urge you to increase funding for

CDC's OSH to \$310 million, which will enable CDC to address the new challenges posed by e-cigarettes while continuing to make progress reducing the death and disease caused by other tobacco products.

Sincerely,

Academy of General Dentistry  
Action on Smoking & Health  
Allergy & Asthma Network  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
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 Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Heart Association  
American Lung Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American School Health Association  
American Society of Addiction Medicine  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
American Thoracic Society  
Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy and Leadership (APPEAL)  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Big Cities Health Coalition  
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids  
ClearWay Minnesota  
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America  
Counter Tools  
Eta Sigma Gamma – National Health Education Honorary  
Lung Cancer Alliance  
March of Dimes  
National African American Tobacco Prevention Network  
National Association of County & City Health Officials  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of School Nurses  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Center for Health Research  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National Network of Public Health Institutes  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Prevent Cancer Foundation  
Prevention Institute  
Public Health Solutions  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions  
Society for Public Health Education  
Society for Research on Nicotine & Tobacco  
Students Against Destructive Decisions  
The Society of State Leaders of Health and Physical Education  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons  
Trust for America's Health

CC: United States House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations Members