

The Honorable Diane Black
Chairman
Budget Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Chairman
Ways and Means Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Enzi
Chairman
Budget Committee
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
Ranking Member
Natural Resources Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman
Finance Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
United States Senates
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Neal
Ranking Member
Ways and Means Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Ranking Member
Budget Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Finance Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

December 8, 2017

Dear Chairmen Black, Brady, Enzi, Hatch, Murkowski and Ranking Members Cantwell, Grijalva, Neal, Sanders and Wyden:

We the undersigned organizations, dedicated to improving the public's health, are writing to express our serious concerns with legislation being considered in Congress that would make significant changes to the tax code that could result in increased federal deficits and reduced resources to fund vital services, including public health services. We are particularly concerned that the Senate-passed Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (H.R. 1) includes repeal of the Affordable Care Act requirement that individuals obtain and maintain adequate health insurance coverage. We have additional concerns about many unintended consequences that these legislative proposals would have on public health if enacted.

Repealing or halting enforcement of the individual mandate would lead to millions more uninsured Americans. The most recent analysis prepared by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) concludes that an estimated 13 million more Americans would be uninsured by the end of the current ten-year budget window. The health care community is united in opposition to this proposal, including the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Medical Association, America's Health Insurance Plans, American Hospital Association, Blue Cross Blue Shield Association of America, and the Federation of American Hospitals. Simply put: more uninsured Americans means more illness, more disease, more suffering, and higher health care costs.

As strong supporters of adequate, sustained federal funding for a 21st century public health system, including investments in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) we have serious concerns that the projected increases to the deficit under these tax proposals, potentially as much as \$1.5 trillion over the next ten years, would have significant negative implications for the overall federal budget. This would severely restrict the nation's ability to properly fund CDC and other public health agencies at a level the evidence demonstrates is needed to protect Americans from emerging infectious diseases, unpredictable natural disasters, the mounting opioid epidemic, and the costly burden of preventable chronic disease.

Increasing the number of uninsured Americans and jeopardizing the public's health will not result in a stronger economy. In fact, the best analyses and studies available lead us to conclude that the proposals being put forward will not result in growth in economic output and resulting tax revenues at the scale that would be necessary to overcome the amount that would be added to the federal deficit under these plans. Instead, it is likely that, as in years past, any potential future deficit reduction could come at great expense to non-defense discretionary or mandatory spending. We are further concerned that without intervention from Congress, statutory pay-as-you-go ("SPAYGO") requirements under the Budget Control Act would be triggered by these legislative proposals and result in across-the-board cuts to many important programs, including the Prevention and Public Health Fund (Prevention Fund), which currently is investing nearly \$900 million in core public health activities and the CDC and other health agencies.

Faced with the prospect of millions of more uninsured Americans, a shrinking amount of federal resources to invest in public health and other vital services, and the potential loss of the Prevention Fund, which currently comprises 12 percent of the entire CDC budget, we must strongly oppose these proposals. We also urge Congress and the President to forge a bipartisan deal to raise the discretionary budget caps to allow for the necessary investment in CDC and other public health programs.

Sincerely,

1,000 Days
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta
AIDS United
Alcohol Justice

Alliance for Strong Families and
Communities
American Association on Health and
Disability
American College of Preventive Medicine

American Council on Exercise
American Liver Foundation American
American Diabetes Association
American Muslim Health Professionals
American Nurses Association
American Public Health Association
American Thoracic Society
Amida Care
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association for Psychological Science
Autism Society of America
Black Women's Health Imperative
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
Center for Law and Social Policy
Center for Science in the Public Interest
ChangeLab Solutions
Colorado School Medicaid Consortium
Commissioned Officers of the U.S. Public
Health Service, Inc.
Community Catalyst
Council of State and Territorial
Epidemiologists
Dab the AIDS Bear Project
Doctors for America
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation
Eat Smart Move More South Carolina
Endocrine Society
Equality California
Eta Sigma Gamma
GBS|CIDP Foundation International
Georgians for a Healthy Future
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing
KC Healthy Kids
Health Resources in Action, Inc.
Hepatitis B Foundation
HIV Medicine Association
Human Impact Partners
Immunize Nevada
Infectious Diseases Society of America

International Foundation for Functional
Gastrointestinal Disorders
Interstitial Cystitis Association
Lakeshore Foundation
LGBT Equality
Los Angeles County Department of Public
Health
March of Dimes
Maya Armijo and Associates
Minneapolis Health Department
NASTAD (National Alliance of State &
Territorial AIDS Directors)
National Alopecia Areata Foundation
National Association of County and City
Health Officials
National Black Gay Men's Advocacy
Coalition (NBGMAC)
National Black Justice Coalition
National Black Nurses Association
National Center for Health Research
National Coalition for LGBT Health
National Council of Jewish Women
National Environmental Health Association
National Health Law Program
National Latina Institute for Reproductive
Health
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Physicians Alliance
National Urban League
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable
National WIC Association
NephCure Kidney International
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social
Justice
NMAC
Partners in Care Foundation
Prevent Blindness
Prevention Institute

Public Health Foundation
Public Health Institute
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Redstone Global Center for Prevention and
Wellness
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
School-Based Health Alliance
Sleep Research Society
Society for Public Health Education

Southern AIDS Coalition
The AIDS Institute
The Association for Psychological Science
The Hepatitis B Foundation
The Marfan Foundation
The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of
America
Treatment Action Group
Trust for America's Health
US Hereditary Angioedema Association

CC: Representatives Bishop, Castor, Doggett, Levin, Noem, Nunes, Roskam, Walden, and
Young;

Senators Carper, Cornyn, Menendez, Murray, Portman, Scott, Stabenow, Thune, and
Toomey