

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 21<sup>st</sup> 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  
LGBT Equality  
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  
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  
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