

October 7, 2015

The Honorable Tom Price
Chairman
House Budget Committee
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
Ranking Member
House Budget Committee
1707 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Van Hollen:

On behalf of the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH), the voice of accredited academic public health, representing schools and programs accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), I am writing to voice our strong opposition to the reconciliation instructions proposed for consideration by the House Budget Committee on Friday. As you know, the instructions would, among other things, fully repeal and eliminate current and future funding for the Prevention and Public Health Fund (The Prevention Fund). On this basis alone, we urge you to oppose passage of this proposal – which would eliminate \$15.5 billion in future funding (FY16-FY25) for critical public health and prevention activities.

Our mission is to transform public health by strengthening and promoting the education, research, service, and practice activities of CEPH-accredited schools and programs. We advocate for investments needed to advance population health and more effective public health policies. In the first six years since its inception, The Prevention Fund has invested nearly \$5.25 billion in resources to states, communities, tribal and community organizations in support of community-based prevention, including tobacco use prevention, healthy eating and active living, as well as childhood immunizations and clinical prevention. Decimating the Prevention Fund in this manner would dramatically impede efforts underway to improve population health.

Massively reducing the Fund would set back public health by a decade, and would slash life-saving investments in every state that are desperately needed. For example, chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes, lung disease, heart disease, and stroke are now responsible for seven out of 10 deaths and account for 86 percent of health care spending in America. An approach to deficit reconciliation that cuts prevention funding may in fact have the opposite effect – more illness and disease and increased future health care spending.

We strongly urge you to oppose the Budget reconciliation instructions and any other

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measure which would repeal or reduce funding for the Prevention and Public Health Fund. Thank you for your consideration

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harrison C. Spencer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Harrison C. Spencer, MD, MPH, DTM&H, CPH
President and CEO