

kills more than 480,000 Americans and is responsible for an estimated \$170 billion in health care costs. More than 60 percent of these health care costs are paid by government programs such as Medicare and Medicaid.

OSH plays a critical role in reducing the death and disease caused by tobacco by funding activities that help to prevent youth from starting to use tobacco and help adult tobacco users to quit. For example, OSH funds the highly successful national media campaign, Tips from Former Smokers. This media campaign has motivated about five million smokers to make a quit attempt, helped approximately 500,000 smokers to successfully quit, and saved at least 50,000 people from premature death since its inception in 2012. The campaign is highly cost-effective with a cost of just \$393 per year of life saved, far below the \$50,000 that is an accepted benchmark for cost-effective public health programs.

OSH also provides funding to states for quitlines, which provide telephone-based counseling to help tobacco users to quit and, in some states, provide tobacco cessation medications. Smokers who use quitlines are at least two to three times more likely to succeed in quitting compared to those who try to quit on their own. OSH provides funding and technical assistance to health departments in all states to help maintain and enhance tobacco prevention and cessation programs at the state and community level. OSH also conducts critical research about the prevalence of tobacco use and alerts policy makers about trends in tobacco use such as the dramatic increase in e-cigarette use among adolescents in recent years.

We oppose the FY 2018 President's budget request to eliminate OSH. It would eliminate the Tips media campaign, eliminate dedicated funding for state quitlines and state tobacco control programs, and eliminate or seriously weaken CDC's ability to collect data on tobacco use and identify emerging threats. While the President's budget request says states could use funding from a newly created America's Health Block Grant to reduce tobacco use, there is no guarantee that states would do so, and states would almost certainly have to substantially cut back existing tobacco programs. Even with the \$500 million America's Health Block Grant, the President's budget request would reduce overall funding for CDC's chronic disease prevention programs by \$222 million, a nearly 20 percent cut.

Investing in effective tobacco prevention and cessation programs will save lives and reduce health costs from treating tobacco-related diseases. As you develop appropriations legislation for FY 2018, we respectfully request that CDC's Office on Smoking and Health receive at least \$210 million so it can continue its important tobacco prevention and cessation work.

Sincerely,

Academy of General Dentistry
Action on Smoking & Health
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 Dental Research
American Association for Respiratory Care
American Cancer Society Cancer Action
Network
American College of Cardiology
American College of Occupational and
Environmental Medicine
American College of Physicians
American Congress of Obstetricians and
Gynecologists
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Thoracic Society
Association of Schools and Programs of
Public Health
Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric
and Neonatal Nurses
Big Cities Health Coalition
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
ClearWay Minnesota
College on Problems of Drug Dependence
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of
America
COPD Foundation
Eta Sigma Gamma - National Health
Education Honorary
International Association for the Study of
Lung Cancer
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 Social Workers
National Center for Health Research
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Latino Alliance for Health Equity
National Network of Public Health Institutes
Oncology Nursing Society
Prevention Institute
Prevention Partners
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
Trust for America’s Health

CC: United States Senate Committee on Appropriations Members