

# NACCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials

*The National Connection for Local Public Health*

March 21, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
House Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi:

As organizations responsible for protecting the public's health, we respectfully request your continued support for vital public health programs currently funded through the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF). We are concerned that long-standing public health programs are in jeopardy due to elimination of the PPHF in the American Healthcare Act under consideration in the House of Representatives.

Among the programs at risk at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are the 317 Immunization Program, Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Grants, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention program, and Diabetes Prevention program, among others. The PPHF provides vital resources to governmental public health at the federal, state, and local levels, and its elimination will serve to further erode our public health system. Investment in programs that prevent people from getting sick is a critical component to reduce health care costs.

In addition, public health leaders are concerned that the American Healthcare Act ends funding in FY2020 for the Medicaid expansion in 32 states, which has provided access to primary and emergency care to millions of Americans. The bill also caps federal Medicaid funding that will ultimately result in shifting responsibility to the states and counties — leaving governors, state legislatures, and local governments facing tight budgets with no choice but to reduce coverage for millions of seniors, low-income families, people with disabilities, and children.

Eliminating public health programs that are now funded by resources authorized by the ACA would seriously undermine the ability of counties and cities to protect and promote health. The loss of hundreds of millions of dollars for public health would have repercussions in communities across the country, hampering efforts to respond to food borne outbreaks, prevent emerging infectious diseases like Ebola and Zika, and respond to natural disasters and other emergencies.

We urge you to sustain current investments in public health and prevention. Our nation needs a strong public health infrastructure with the capacity to promote health, prevent illness, and treat disease.

Sincerely,



William M. Barnes, PhD., MBA  
Acting Executive Director/Chief Program Officer

