

November 18, 2026

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Collins, Chairman Cole, Vice Chair Murray, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you develop final Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 appropriations legislation, the undersigned organizations respectfully request that you prioritize funding for efforts to protect youth from tobacco products and to reduce the serious health and economic consequences of tobacco use. Specifically, we ask you to provide at least **$246.5 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC)'s tobacco control program and $712 million in user fees for the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) oversight of tobacco products.** We further request that you include legislative language to ensure that appropriated funds are spent as Congress intends and that agencies prioritize the hiring of staff necessary to carry out these programs.

Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States, responsible for nearly 500,000 deaths each year. More than 23 million Americans smoke cigarettes, which elevates their risk of cancer, heart disease, stroke, COPD and diabetes. Youth use of tobacco products remains a serious concern. More than two million youth, including 9.5% of high school students, reported using a tobacco product last year. E-cigarettes, which come in a wide variety of appealing flavors and deliver addictive levels of nicotine, have been the most popular tobacco product among youth for more than a decade.

In addition to the health risks, tobacco use also imposes a substantial economic burden on the nation. Cigarette smoking costs the United States more than $600 billion each year, including $241 billion in health care costs. More than 60 percent of these health care costs are paid for by government programs like Medicare and Medicaid.

CDC's tobacco program has successfully reduced youth tobacco use and helped adult tobacco users quit by providing grants and technical assistance to state tobacco control programs, running public education campaigns like the Tips from Former Smokers (Tips) media campaign, supporting state quitlines that deliver tobacco cessation treatments, collecting data on trends in tobacco use, and developing best practices for state tobacco prevention programs. We appreciate that the FY 2027 House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) appropriations bill included $246.5 million for CDC's tobacco program – as well as the bipartisan support that the Senate has consistently shown for this program – and urge you to include at least $246.5 million in the final bill.

Despite legislative language in the enacted FY 2026 LHHS bill requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to provide adequate staffing levels to carry out funded programs and activities, CDC's Office on Smoking and Health (OSH) remains shuttered, leaving the agency unable to effectively carry out the full mission of its congressionally funded and directed tobacco prevention and cessation activities. Without dedicated subject matter experts at OSH, states can no longer turn to CDC for assistance on how to effectively develop, implement, and evaluate their state tobacco control programs. Ads for the successful Tips media campaign are not running in all states. Analysis and dissemination of tobacco-related information has been delayed. As such, we request that you once again include legislative language in the FY 2027 appropriations bill that requires CDC to have adequate staff to effectively carry out its programs, including its tobacco program.

FDA plays an equally important role in reducing tobacco use through oversight of how tobacco products are made, marketed, and sold. We appreciate that the FY 2027 House Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies (Ag-FDA) appropriations bill included the authorized level of $712 million in tobacco user fees, did not include restrictions on FDA's authority to oversee tobacco products, and recognized the need for greater enforcement action against the thousands of unauthorized e-cigarettes that have entered the U.S. market. As you negotiate a final bill, we ask you to include at least $712 million in tobacco user fees and language to strengthen enforcement against unauthorized tobacco products, which often come in flavors that attract kids.

Preventing youth from starting to use tobacco products and helping adults who use tobacco to quit saves lives and money. It will help advance shared goals of reducing chronic disease and protecting children's health. We thank you for your continued support of these programs and hope you will continue to prioritize them in FY 2027 appropriations bills.

Sincerely,

Action on Smoking and Health

African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council

AME Church Social Action Commission

American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of Nursing

American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association for Cancer Research

American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research

American Association for Respiratory Care

American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists (AAPP)

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American College of Cardiology

American College of Chest Physicians

American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists

American College of Physicians

American Dental Association

American Heart Association

American Lung Association

American Medical Association

American Public Health Association

American School Health Association

American Society of Addiction Medicine

American Thoracic Society

Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights

Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy and Leadership (APPEAL)

Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO)

Association for the Treatment of Tobacco Use and Dependence (ATTUD)

Association of Black Cardiologists

Association of Black Women Physicians

Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

Big Cities Health Coalition

BlackDoctor.com

Breathe Southern California

CADCA

Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids

CATCH Global Foundation

Catholic Health Association of the United States

Children's Health Fund

Coalition of National Health Education Organizations

Community Education Group

COPD Foundation

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Emphysema Foundation of America

HealthHIV

Healthy Americas Foundation

Hope Cancer Resources

IntelliQuit

Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

LUNGevity Foundation

Mocha Moms Inc

NAACP

National Alliance for Hispanic Health

National Association of County and City Health Officials

National Association of Elementary School Principals

National Association of Hispanic Nurses

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

National Association of School Nurses

National Coalition for LGBTQ Health

National Council for Mental Wellbeing

National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians

National Education Association

National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention

National Hispanic Medical Association

National Network of Public Health Institutes

National PTA

North American Quitline Consortium

Oncology Nursing Society

Parents Against Vaping

Partnership to End Addiction

Prevent Cancer Foundation

Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association

Respiratory Health Association

Right 2 Breathe

Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions

Society for Public Health Education

Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco

The Cancer Network

The Center for Black Health & Equity

Tobacco Free Portfolios

Trust for America's Health

Cc: Chair Shelley Moore Capito, Chairman Robert Aderholt, Chair John Hoeven, Chairman Andy Harris, Ranking Member Tammy Baldwin, Ranking Member Jeanne Shaheen, and Ranking Member Sanford Bishop