



June 11, 2024

Dear Senator/Representative:

As the Congress works on its Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) appropriations bills, the American Lung Association urges you to proactively invest in our nation's health, actively oppose all policy riders, and work to ensure that final funding bills are passed on time. The people we represent – including people with asthma, COPD lung cancer and other lung diseases – rely on federal funding for research, disease prevention and education, and more.

The Lung Association continues to stand in strong opposition to adding policy riders to appropriations bills, as they can undermine public health efforts, jeopardizing the health and safety of your constituents. In particular, we oppose riders that would narrow or weaken Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) authority to protect the public's health from tobacco products, and riders that would prevent the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from setting stronger clean air protections or implementing investments from the Inflation Reduction Act. These and other riders would undermine health and clean air protections. Policy riders have no place in must-pass spending bills and should not be included.

We are also concerned with the caps put in place by the Fiscal Responsibility Act and the funding reductions the House has proposed to non-defense appropriations. These levels do not adequately fund the critical health programs that your constituents rely on. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institutes of Health (NIH) and EPA are key public health agencies. They are critical to protecting the public's health, promoting health equity and preventing future healthcare costs. The Lung Association has consistently highlighted the overwhelming importance of robust, sustained and predictable increases in funding for these agencies. Without an increase to non-defense discretionary appropriations, the nation's health and security will be in jeopardy.

The Lung Association urges Congress to reject all policy riders in appropriations bills and to work to find a bipartisan path forward to robust, adequate funding that protects our nation's health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harold Wimmer".

Harold P. Wimmer
President and CEO