



September 7, 2016

The Honorable Michael Dean Crapo  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable James Risch  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Crapo and Risch:

We are writing to express our strong support for the funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) tobacco prevention work in the Senate's FY 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. While the Senate bill provides \$210 million for CDC's tobacco prevention initiatives, the House bill cuts funding by more than 50 percent. As negotiations on appropriations for FY 2017 proceed, we urge you to ask Senate Appropriations Committee leadership to oppose the House's dramatic funding cut and accept the Senate's position on funding for CDC's tobacco prevention initiatives. The work that CDC does is critical to ending the tobacco epidemic that takes far too many lives and exacts an enormous financial toll on the nation's economy.

While tobacco use has declined over the decades, it remains the leading cause of preventable death in the United States. In Idaho, tobacco use claims 1,800 lives each year and costs the state more than \$508 million annually in health care costs.

CDC plays an important role in federal efforts to reduce 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. CDC funds the highly successful national media campaign, Tips from Former Smokers. Since it began in 2012, the Tips media campaign has motivated about five million smokers to make a quit attempt and helped 400,000 smokers to successfully quit. The House's proposed funding cut would make it virtually impossible for CDC to continue this vital campaign.

Cuts of more than 50 percent to CDC's tobacco prevention work are certain to result in deep, across the board cuts to Idaho's tobacco control funding. CDC provides funding and technical assistance to our state's health department to help maintain and enhance tobacco prevention and cessation programs at the state and community level. CDC funding likewise supports Idaho's quitline, which provide telephone-based counseling to help tobacco users quit. Quitlines greatly increase the chances that a smoker will quit successfully.

Investing in effective tobacco prevention and cessation programs saves lives and reduces health costs from treating tobacco-related diseases. As negotiations on appropriations proceed, we urge you to ask the Senate Appropriations Committee leadership to fight for the \$210 million in funding for CDC's tobacco prevention work that the Senate Appropriations Committee previously approved so CDC can continue its important tobacco prevention and cessation efforts.

Sincerely,

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American Lung Association in Idaho  
Idaho Academy of Family Physicians  
Idaho Drug Free Youth (iDFY)  
Idaho Public Health Association  
Insight Support Groups