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November 9, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nina Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cochran, Ranking Member Mikulski, Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey:

As the appropriations bills are finalized for Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16), the American Lung Association asks for your support for the lung health priorities outlined below. The Lung Association also asks for your **opposition to all policy riders on appropriations bills**, including those highlighted below, recognizing that some riders will jeopardize lung health and also further complicate passage of the appropriations bills.

Lung disease is the third leading cause of death in the United States and lung cancer is the leading cancer killer among both women and men. More than 25 million people, including 7 million children, suffer from asthma. The nation is making progress to combat this toll but this advancement can only continue with sustained investment and strong laws.

The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through education, advocacy and research. We support continued investments in public health in order to reduce the burden of lung disease in the U.S., and strongly oppose the inclusion of any riders in appropriations bills, including those that would endanger lung health.

Advocacy Office:

1301 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20004
Ph: 202-785-3355 F: 202-452-1805

National Office:

55 W. Wacker Drive, Suite 1150 | Chicago, IL 60601
Ph: 312-801-7630 F: 202-452-1805 Info@Lung.org

**American Lung Association Appropriations Priorities
Fiscal Year 2016**

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies

The American Lung Association appreciates your support.

Sincerely,



Harold P. Wimmer
National President and CEO

Request for Opposition to All Riders

The American Lung Association urges all Members to oppose legislative riders that would endanger lung health in the FY2016 funding bills, including riders that would:

- Weaken the Clean Air Act by limiting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s authority to protect the public from dangerous air pollution, including by:
 - Blocking, weakening, or delaying the 2015 updated National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone
 - Blocking, weakening, or delaying the Clean Power Plan or Carbon Pollution Standards for New, Modified, and Reconstructed Power Plants
 - Any other attempt to block, weaken, or delay Clean Air Act protections.
- Weaken FDA's authority to protect public health from the dangers of all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, cigars and other tobacco products.

FY16 L-HHS Appropriations Priorities

- **CDC's National Asthma Control Program (NACP)**

It is estimated that more than 25 million Americans currently have asthma, of whom 7 million are children. The NACP tracks asthma prevalence, promotes asthma control and prevention and builds capacity in state programs. This program has been highly effective: the rate of asthma has increased, yet asthma mortality and morbidity rates have decreased. However, at present only 23 states receive funding – leaving a nationwide public health void that can lead to unnecessary asthma-related attacks and healthcare costs.

 - The American Lung Association requests the House funding level of \$30 million.
- **CDC's Office of Smoking and Health (OSH)**

OSH is the lead federal agency for tobacco prevention and control and created the "Tips from Former Smokers" Campaign, which has prompted hundreds of thousands of smokers to call 1-800-QUIT-NOW or visit smokefree.gov for assistance in quitting – with even more smokers making quit attempts on their own or with the assistance of their physicians. Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States and costs the U.S. over \$289 billion in

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healthcare costs and lost productivity. As such, support for tobacco cessation and prevention activities is among the most effective and cost-effective investments in disease prevention.

➤ The American Lung Association requests the Senate funding level of \$156.65 million.

- **CDC's Climate and Health Program**

CDC's Climate and Health Program provides critical resources to state and local health departments in nearly every region of the country to prepare for and protect their communities from worsening air pollution, diseases that emerge in new areas, stronger and longer heat waves, more frequent and severe droughts, and other public health threats. Pilot projects covering 50% of the U.S. population are developing and implementing health adaptation plans and addressing gaps in critical public health functions and services, which will save lives and reduce future health care costs. The entire nation stands to benefit from the research and best practices developed under this program.

➤ The American Lung Association requests funding be restored to a minimum of \$8.613 million.

- **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

Research supported by NIH has been instrumental in the fight to identify the causes of and effective treatments for lung diseases. The American Lung Association supports increased funding for NIH research on the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cures for tobacco use and all lung diseases including lung cancer, asthma, COPD and tuberculosis. The Lung Association strongly supports the \$215 million precision medicine proposal included in the President's FY16 budget. Lung cancer remains the leading cancer killer in the United States and while deaths among men have plateaued, the number is still rising among women.

➤ The American Lung Association requests the Senate funding level of \$32.084 billion.

- **Preserve the Prevention and Public Health Fund as mandated by the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act***

The Prevention and Public Health Fund is crucial in financing proven and effective public health and wellness programs. Already the Prevention and Public Health Fund is helping to reduce tobacco use, the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, and has been used to finance the successful "Tips from Former Smokers." The Fund is also assisting states in monitoring outbreaks of infectious diseases such as influenza, and is being used to prevent and treat diseases, including COPD, lung cancer and asthma. Eliminating the Fund would put critical public health programs in jeopardy leading to greater health care costs over time. The Lung Association supports Congress appropriating the fund and strongly opposes any further cuts to the Fund.

FY16 Interior-Environment Appropriations Priorities

Support and Defend EPA's Programs to Address Climate Change and Improve Air Quality

The American Lung Association urges the Committee to defend the Clean Air Act as a key public health safeguard, especially for populations most at risk, including those with asthma and other lung diseases, children, older adults, people living in low-income communities, people who work, exercise or play outdoors, and people with heart disease and diabetes. We urge Congress to reject any policy riders that would block, delay or weaken EPA's ability to save lives and improve public health by reducing air pollution, including carbon pollution from power plants. Specific recommendations are below:

- **Federal Support for Air Quality Management**

The Federal Support for Air Quality Management Program assists states, tribes, and local air pollution control agencies in the administration of programs and standards to protect the air we breathe. States have the primary responsibility for developing clean air measures necessary to meet federal standards, but rely on support and assistance from EPA to create effective comprehensive air quality management programs. The EPA also supports training for state, tribal, and local air pollution professionals on rulemakings and other significant actions.

- For the Clean Air and Climate program that includes Federal Support for Air Quality Management, the American Lung Association requests the House funding level of \$107.738 million for Science and Technology, and the Senate level of \$248.590 million for Environmental Programs and Management.

- **Categorical Grant: State and Local Air Quality Management**

State and local air pollution agencies need more funding, not less, to ensure proper protection of the public through implementation of the Clean Air Act. State agencies are on the front lines of vital efforts to improve air quality and protect public health, yet they are perennially underfunded. This must change in order to secure the benefits promised by Clean Air Act protections.

- The American Lung Association requests the level provided in both the Senate and House of \$228.219 million be made final.

- **Climate Protection Program**

The EPA has a critical role to play in reducing carbon pollution, methane, and other climate pollutants and must have the resources needed to meet the challenge ahead. Reducing carbon pollution as proposed in EPA's Clean Power Plan will save lives and improve health.

- The American Lung Association requests the Senate funding level of \$93.865 million, which includes \$85.892 million for Environmental Programs and Management and \$7.973 million for Science and Technology.

**American Lung Association Appropriations Priorities
Fiscal Year 2016**

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies
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- **Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant Program**

Twenty million old diesel engines are in use today that pollute communities and threaten workers. Immense opportunities remain to reduce diesel emissions through the DERA program.

- The American Lung Association requests the House funding level of \$50 million.

- **Categorical Grant: Radon**

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States, and the EPA's State Indoor Radon Grants are the only nationwide program that helps prevent exposure to it. States and tribes depend on this program as well as technical assistance through the Radon Programs to educate the public and fight this deadly carcinogen. In 2003, the National Academy of Sciences estimated that radon kills 21,000 people each year.

- The American Lung Association requests the level provided in both the Senate and House of \$8.051 million be made final.

FY16 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Appropriations Priorities

- **HUD's Healthy Homes Program**

The American Lung Association strongly supports HUD's Healthy Homes Program and its initiatives to make housing safer for families by eliminating radon and asthma triggers. Healthy Homes is the only program in the federal government directly works to improve the health and safety of homes which otherwise would threaten the health of their residents. Recognizing the continued dangers to children and other vulnerable populations, the American Lung Association urges HUD to make all government-subsidized housing smokefree and require radon testing and mitigation in all HUD-assisted housing programs.

- The American Lung Association requests that the Senate funding level of \$25 million.