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March 14, 2016

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of our more than 30 million volunteers and supporters, the American Heart Association and our division, the American Stroke Association, urges you to oppose H.R. 4725, the Common Sense Savings Act of 2016, which would repeal the Prevention and Public Health Fund. The legislation would hinder efforts to combat cardiovascular disease (CVD), the leading cause of death in the United States and our nation's most costly disease.

Heart disease, stroke and other forms of CVD are largely preventable, and studies estimate that people who practice several healthy habits through middle age have only a six to eight percent chance of developing CVD in their lifetimes. However, only 18 percent of U.S. adults follow just three important measures recommended by the American Heart Association for optimal health: not smoking, maintaining a healthy body weight, and exercising at moderate-vigorous intensity for at least 30 minutes, five days per week.

The Prevention Fund represents an unprecedented investment in programs that can help Americans address their risk factors for cardiovascular and other chronic diseases, and ultimately drive down our nation's rising health care costs. For example, the Prevention Fund supports evidence-based programs like Million Hearts, a public-private initiative to prevent one million heart attacks and strokes by 2017, and Tips from Former Smokers, a national tobacco education campaign. In 2012, the Tips Campaign motivated 1.6 million Americans to make a quit attempt and helped 100,000 smokers quit for good.

The Prevention Fund is crucial to the Association's mission of reducing death and disability from cardiovascular disease and stroke and helping all Americans live healthier lives. We urge you to oppose H.R. 4725.

Sincerely,

Sue A. Nelson  
Vice President, Federal Advocacy  
American Heart Association | American Stroke Association

*"Building healthier lives, free of  
cardiovascular diseases and stroke."*

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Please remember the American Heart Association in your will.

