



AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
*For science. For action. For health.*

March 11, 2016

The Honorable Fred Upton  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
2322A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of the American Public Health Association, a diverse community of public health professionals who champion the health of all people and communities, I write in strong opposition to H.R. 4725, the Common Sense Savings Act of 2016 which includes a provision to repeal the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

Eliminating the fund would do serious damage to our public health system, including significantly cutting important funding to states and U.S. territories through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity program. ELC, which received \$40 million from the fund this year, is critical to help communities detect and responded to infectious disease threats like the Zika virus. The fund is also providing critical resources to 29 states, DC and five cities to prevent lead poisoning in children through CDC's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program which received \$17 million from the fund in FY 2016. The need for this important program is clearer than ever in the wake the water crisis in Flint, Michigan and in the health risks children face from lead exposure in other communities across the country.

The fund has already provided more than \$6 billion that is supporting a variety of public health activities in every state including tracking and preventing infectious disease, community and clinical prevention programs, bolstering the public health infrastructure and workforce, expanding access to childhood immunizations and expanding public health research and tracking efforts. Repealing the fund would devastate these programs and would be a setback for public health systems in every state. Cuts to the fund would also leave a massive hole in CDC's budget which received more than \$892 million from the fund in 2016 – more than 12 percent of the agency's annual budget.

For more information about the fund and the important programs it is funding at the local, state and federal levels to fight infectious disease, obesity, curb tobacco use and increase access to preventive care services, please refer to [APHA's Prevention and Public Health Fund fact sheet](#).

Voting to eliminate the fund is a vote against public health. We urge you to oppose this and any future efforts to cut or repeal this important source of public health funding.

Sincerely,

Georges C. Benjamin, MD  
Executive Director