



March 11, 2016

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of Nemours Children's Health System we wish to comment on H.R. 4725, the Common Sense Savings Act of 2016. Nemours, an internationally recognized children's health system, owns and operates two free-standing children's hospitals in Wilmington, Delaware and Orlando, Florida, as well as primary, specialty and urgent care clinics throughout the Delaware Valley and Northern/Central Florida. As part of the Nemours strategy to help children grow up healthy, we continually devote our resources to efforts focused on advocacy, education, prevention and research in order to improve the health and well-being of children and families in the communities we serve and nationwide.

I am writing to voice Nemours' concerns with this bill that would, among other things, fully repeal the Prevention and Public Health Fund (the Prevention Fund). On the basis of this alone, **Nemours opposes such a proposal** – which would eliminate funding for critical public health and prevention activities. Since inception, the Prevention Fund has invested more than \$6 billion in resources to states, communities, tribal and community organizations in support of community-based prevention, including healthy eating and active living, as well as childhood immunizations and clinical prevention. For the past three years (FY14, FY15 and FY16), the Fund was allocated by Congress in annual appropriations measures – bills that have been approved under Democratic and Republican leadership and which address a broad spectrum of critical public health issues.

Eliminating the Prevention Fund would dramatically impede efforts underway to improve health. One program with bipartisan support is the National Early Child Care Collaboratives (NECCC). The NECCC is spearheaded by Nemours and state and local implementing partners across nine states (New Jersey, Virginia, Florida, Kentucky, Indiana, Missouri, Kansas, Arizona and California), with recent expansion to a tenth state, Alabama. The program seeks to inform and engage early care and education (ECE) providers in promoting healthy eating and physical activity in ECE settings.

To date, Nemours has reached over 144,000 children in more than 1,500 ECE programs. Analyses across three cohorts showed consistent findings: statistically significant increases in ECE programs' adoption of best practices with regard to healthy eating, physical activity, reduced screen time, and breastfeeding support.

Eliminating the Prevention Fund would slash vital investments in every state, including funds for the NECCC program. To this end, we **strongly oppose** any measure which would repeal or reduce the Prevention and Public Health Fund. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christopher J. Revere". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Christopher J. Revere, MPA
Director
Office of Child Health Policy & Advocacy