



American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network
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Washington, DC 20004
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May 16, 2016

Dear Senator:

We are deeply concerned that the proposed Cornyn amendment to S. 2844, the FY17 Transportation-HUD Appropriations bill will substantially undermine the intent and efforts of the Prevention and Public Health Fund (the Prevention Fund). Prevention Fund dollars today support strategies in every state to prevent death and suffering from cancer, heart disease, diabetes and other major killers and chronic diseases that affect millions of Americans. As a nation we must respond to these diseases, while we respond to the emerging Zika threat as well. Accordingly, we urge you to vote against the Cornyn amendment.

The American Cancer Society estimates that in 2016 there will be more than 1.6 million new diagnoses of cancer with 595,690 Americans expected to die from this devastating disease. Cancer is the second most common cause of death in the US, exceeded only by heart disease, and accounts for nearly 1 of every 4 deaths. We know that approximately fifty percent of cancer deaths can be prevented by increasing the use of established screening tests, reducing tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke, improving diet, and increasing physical activity.

One third of all cancer deaths are tobacco related. The Prevention Fund has made possible the highly successful Tips from Former Smokers cessation campaign to raise awareness and shift key attitudes and beliefs about the harms of tobacco use. CDC's tobacco prevention work is a critical part of the effort to prevent young people from starting to use tobacco products and to help adult tobacco users quit. According to the CDC, this campaign motivated 1.83 million Americans to make a quit attempt, helped 104,000 smokers quit for good, and saved approximately 17,000 people from a premature death.

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of death from cancer among women. In FY 2015 Congress chose to use the Prevention Fund to pay for the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP) in 32 states. The NBCCEDP has been an effective delivery model for cancer detection and care in this country since Congress established it in 1990, and continues to be in the many states where Medicaid expansion is not available to single low-income women. Since its inception, the NBCCEDP has provided over 12 million screening exams to more than 4.8 million women, detecting more than 68,000 breast cancers, 3,700 cervical cancers and 171,000 premalignant cervical lesions. Prevention Fund dollars are critical to this continuing effort.

In many ways prevention is a cure for cancer, and Prevention Fund dollars are helping to prevent and detect cancer, and other serious diseases in every state.

We thank you for your consideration of this important matter and urge you to vote against the Cornyn amendment. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Caroline Powers (caroline.powers@cancer.org) on my staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher W. Hansen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Christopher W. Hansen
President