



Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America



Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America*
NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER



Children's National



FIRST FOCUS
CAMPAIGN FOR CHILDREN



Green & Healthy Homes Initiative®



Health Resources in Action
Advancing Public Health and Medical Research



National Center for Healthy Housing



Nevada Statewide Asthma Coalition

Not One Life, Inc.



September 11, 2015

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services, Education, & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services, Education, & Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services, Education, & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Blunt, Ranking Member Murray, Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

Thank you for your support of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Asthma Control Program in the Fiscal Year 2016 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies bill.

Our organizations, many of whom are members of the Childhood Asthma Leadership Coalition, greatly appreciate your recognition of the crucial role this program plays in helping millions of Americans manage their asthma and lead healthy lives.

It is estimated that 25 million Americans have asthma, including 6.1 million children, representing 8.3 percent of our nation's youth. Asthma is the third leading cause of hospitalizations for children under the age of 15 and is a leading cause of school absences due to a chronic disease. Asthma is responsible for \$50.1 billion annually in healthcare costs, 10.5 million missed school days; and 14.2 million missed days of work and costs \$5.9 billion in lost productivity. With proper management, asthma can be controlled and, due to the high costs of asthma, an investment made today in asthma control will save money tomorrow.

The National Asthma Control Program plays a key role in helping grantees assist their subjects in managing and treating asthma to avoid hospitalizations and deaths, as well as tracking asthma trends to determine where resources are needed most. Death rates from asthma have decreased 38 percent since the National Asthma Control Program's inception in 1999. Research shows that people with asthma are better managing their disease. Schools have increased awareness of asthma management techniques, which keeps children safe and healthy while they are at school. These developments represent progress in controlling asthma, but the number of individuals with asthma continues to increase, meaning more people require assistance in understanding and controlling their disease. This results in a need for increased funding of the National Asthma Control Program.

For these reasons, our organizations respectfully request that as the Fiscal Year 2016 appropriations process proceeds, the final bill include the House funding level of \$30 million for the National Asthma Control Program. Additionally, as it best safeguards our nation's health, we request that the House committee report language be included in the final conference report. Again, thank you very much for your support of controlling asthma, and your hard work during the appropriations process and beyond.

Sincerely,

American Lung Association
Association of Asthma Educators
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, New England Chapter
Asthma Regional Council of New England
Bridge Atlanta Medical Center
Children's National Health System
First Focus Campaign for Children
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
Health Resources in Action
Healthy Schools Network
National Association of School Nurses
National Center for Healthy Housing
Nemours Children's Health System
Nevada Statewide Asthma Coalition
Not One Life, Inc.
Regional Asthma Management and Prevention