



March 8, 2018

Dear Senator/Representative:

Our organizations write to thank you for your previous funding support for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) National Asthma Control Program in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 and ask for your strong support again in Fiscal Year 2019. **Specifically, we ask that you support a \$1 million increase in funding for CDC’s National Asthma Control Program, bringing funding to \$30.0 million for FY 2019.**

In FY2016, Congress increased funding for the National Asthma Control Program, which resulted in funding for two additional states to help combat asthma. At present, 24 states and Puerto Rico receive critical funding from the National Asthma Control Program. Our request for \$30 million in funding for the National Asthma Control Program would ensure the program can continue to assist states with combatting the terrible human and economic burden caused by asthma.

Asthma remains a serious and costly health issue in our nation. It is estimated that 26.5 million Americans have asthma, of whom 6.1 million are children, representing 10 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. It is responsible for \$50.3 billion annually in healthcare costs, \$3 billion in missed school and work days and \$29 billion from mortality. Tragically, while most deaths caused by asthma can be prevented, this disease still claims the lives of 3,500 Americans each year.

The National Asthma Control Program is making a difference in improving disease outcomes. Since the inception of the National Asthma Control Program in 1999, death rates have decreased by 41 percent. While the number of people living with asthma has increased, research shows that people with asthma are better managing their disease. The number of people having asthma attacks decreased by 5 percent from 2001 to 2016 and there were 24 percent fewer hospitalizations due to asthma from 2003 to 2010.

Asthma is a complex, multifactorial disease that requires a comprehensive approach. Public health programs that reduce the burden of asthma must include surveillance, environmental measures to reduce exposure to indoor and outdoor air pollutants, awareness and self-management education and appropriate healthcare services. While our organizations recognize these difficult financial times, we also know that when it comes to asthma management, an investment made today will save money tomorrow.

We thank you again for your support in FY18 and ask for your leadership in ensuring that CDC's National Asthma Control Program remains a robust and effective program by **supporting funding in FY19 of at least \$30.0 million.**

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Advocacy Council of ACAAI
American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology
American Lung Association
American Thoracic Society
Association of Asthma Educators
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Children's National Health System
First Focus Campaign for Children
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
Health Resources in Action
Healthy Schools Campaign
Healthy Schools Network
RAMP (Regional Asthma Management and Prevention)
Trust for America's Health