



December 16, 2020

The Honorable Eliot Engel
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Engel:

As the chief executives of organizations dedicated to serving those with asthma and allergies in the United States, we wish to express our sincere gratitude for the leadership you have shown as co-chair of the Congressional Asthma and Allergy Caucus.

Nearly 25 million Americans have asthma, including more than 5 million children. Further, as many as 50 million in the United States have some type of allergy. All of these individuals have benefited from your stewardship of the Asthma and Allergy Caucus, and for that we are immensely appreciative.

In this role, you have stood by our communities and advanced policies with the goal of alleviating the burden of asthma and allergy in this nation. As a result of your leadership, the House of Representatives has been successful in increasing funding for the National Asthma Control Program (NACP) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This additional funding helps more states combat asthma and elevates the ability of the NACP to track prevalence and promote asthma control and prevention.

You have also championed the Elijah E. Cummings Family Asthma Act. This legislation would expand the assistance of the NACP to all 50 states, require the development of state plans to address asthma, particularly for disproportionately affected communities, and call for the collection and coordination of data on the impacts of asthma. By carrying the torch on this critical piece of legislation following the passing of Congressman Cummings, you have kept hope alive within our communities.

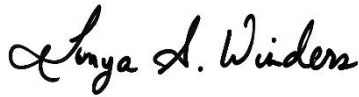
In addition to these concrete actions, we wish to thank you for being a constant source of protection and reassurance. When it appeared there might be a shortage of albuterol metered dose inhalers at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was wonderful to witness your eagerness to hear our concerns and take steps towards remedying them. Within a matter of days, you had a bipartisan letter sent to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to alert the agency of the potential problem and ask for its vigilance.

As you embark on a new chapter, we will greatly miss your dedicated partnership. Thank you, again, for your work as champion and co-chair of the Asthma and Allergy Caucus. We will always honor your service.

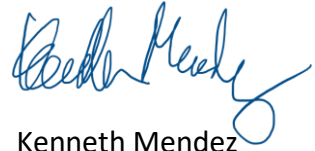
Sincerely,



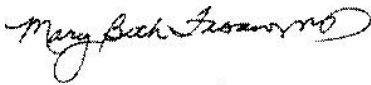
Harold P. Wimmer
National President and CEO
American Lung Association



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