



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

February 21, 2024

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Laphonza Butler
United States Senate
G10 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Robert Garcia
United States House of Representatives
1305 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nanette Barragán
United States House of Representatives
2312 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Protection of the Prevention and Public Health Fund

Dear Senators Padilla and Butler, and Representatives Barragán and Garcia:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I write to respectfully request the protection of the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF), an essential program for delivering critical resources to state and local health departments, and oppose using the fund as a pay-for in the passage of H.R. 485, the Protecting Health Care for All Patients Act.

A provision expected to be included in H.R. 485, the Protecting Health Care for All Patients Act, would use the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's PPHF as a pay-for, totaling \$1.19 billion in cuts over FY25-29, roughly a thirteen percent cut over that period. The Prevention and Public Health Fund provides critical resources to state and local health departments to keep communities healthy and safe from infectious diseases, lead poisoning, tobacco-related diseases, and more. Any cuts to the fund would threaten our already-underfunded public health infrastructure.

In the fourteen years since its creation, the PPHF has invested more than \$12.3 billion in funding to state and local public health programs. This includes efforts like the 317 immunization program to help prevent infectious disease outbreaks; public health laboratory grants in every state and U.S. territory to detect and investigate outbreaks and prevent further infections; and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services programs supporting suicide prevention, Alzheimer's disease prevention, and chronic disease self-management. The fund also supported the Tips from Former Smokers Campaign, which saved an estimated \$7.3 billion in smoking-related healthcare costs from 2012 to 2018 and helped more than one million Americans quit smoking.

California has received \$589 million in PPHF funding from FY10 to FY22. In 2021, the City received \$40 million in PPHF funding to support the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Program, which enhances the City's capacity for detecting and responding to infectious diseases and other public health threats. Furthermore, the City receives multiyear PPHF funding to support the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. Proposed cuts to PPHF would translate into funding shortfalls for many programs that states and communities rely on to keep their communities safe and healthy.

I respectfully urge you to reject cuts to PPHF and oppose any amendments that would use the PPHF as a pay-for. Please support public health programs across the country so we can collectively achieve our goal to create safe and healthy communities for all to live, work, and play.

Sincerely,

Mayor Rex Richardson
City of Long Beach