

January 17, 2019

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator/Representative:

With the partial government shutdown nearing the four-week point, the undersigned organizations call on Congress and the President to immediately reopen the government to minimize any further impact on the public's health and wellbeing. Several agencies' ability to provide critical services, ranging from food and environmental risk inspections to health services, have already been drastically reduced or are threatened if the shutdown continues. We fear a prolonged shutdown will cause needless suffering and have long-lasting health consequences.

Basic health protections could be endangered by an ongoing shutdown. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is suspending its routine food inspections except at "high-risk facilities," and its ability to enforce food safety rules may be sharply impaired as 40 percent of its workforce is furloughed. The FDA oversees 80 percent of the food supply, and regular inspections and enforcement help stop foodborne illness before people get sick. The FDA also will not be able to assess new drug and device applications if the shutdown continues, meaning life-saving innovations will take longer to come to market.

There are also increased environmental risks to the health of the public. The Environmental Protection Agency has suspended its inspections of chemical factories, power plants and water treatment operations while the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is no longer investigating and assessing environmental health threats.

The shutdown is having cascading impacts on the public's health through loss of income and potential cuts to programs that families rely on for health and economic stability. Access to nutrition and food assistance, breastfeeding support and infant nutrition through U.S. Department of Agriculture programs is critical to maintaining health and performance in school and work. Programs such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) are at serious risk of benefit cuts if the shutdown continues. And 800,000 Americans are furloughed or working without paychecks, which puts their ability to pay rent and utilities, access medicines, and put food on the table in jeopardy. Residents simply cannot maintain their health without stable housing, food and medical care.

Indian Country has been disproportionately impacted by the shutdown, which is curtailing health care and programs for American Indian communities. The Indian Health Service (IHS) receives its funding through the Department of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, so tribal governments are cutting other services and scraping together scarce dollars to keep health clinics operational in the short term. Many IHS employees working without pay are already reportedly looking for other jobs, which would be a huge blow to an agency that has great difficulty recruiting and retaining medical professionals in rural and remote

areas. The shutdown is destabilizing Native health delivery and health care provider access, as well as destabilizing tribal governments, families, children and individuals. Services will be cut, and serious consequences to health and safety will be the result if the shutdown is not ended soon.

A prolonged shutdown will continue to put the health and safety of the nation's residents at risk. It is vital that Congress and the President work to reopen the government as soon as possible to minimize the effects of the impasse.

Sincerely,

1,000 Days  
100 Million Healthier Lives  
Advocates for Better Children's Diets  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
AJ Rosen & Associates LLC  
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association for Dental Research  
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine  
American College Health Association (ACHA)  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Diabetes Association  
American Lung Association  
American Medical Student Association (AMSA)  
American Medical Women's Association  
American Muslim Health Professionals  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation  
American Society for Nutrition  
American Thoracic Society  
Arlington Food Assistance Center  
Asian Health Coalition  
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Asian Pacific Liver Center  
Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy and Leadership (APPEAL)  
Asian Services In Action, Inc. (ASIA, Inc.)  
Association for Accredited Public Health Programs  
Association for Clinical and Translational Science  
Association for Psychological Science  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges

Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of Public Health Laboratories  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Autism Society of America  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
A World Fit For Kids!  
Bailey House, Inc.  
Benzie Leelanau District Health Department  
Berean Wellness & Community Support Center  
Big Cities Health Coalition  
Blue Hills Community Health Network Alliance (CHNA 20)  
Boulder County Public Health  
Bronx Health REACH  
Brookline Public Health and Human Services  
Brooklyn Coalition for Health Equity for Women and Families  
CA4Health  
California Food Policy Advocates  
California Immunization Coalition  
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network  
California Public Health Association--North  
Cause Engagement Associates  
Center for Health and Learning  
Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy  
Center for Policy Analysis  
Center for Population Health at Xavier University  
Center for Science in the Public Interest  
Ceres Community Project  
ChangeLab Solutions  
Chicagoland Equity Network  
Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN)  
Children's Health Fund  
Children's Mental Health Network  
City-County Health District  
Claremont Healthy Village Initiative  
CLASP  
CLEARCorps Detroit  
Climate for Health (ecoAmerica)  
Clinical Immunology Society  
Clinical Research Forum  
Coalition for Clinical and Translational Science  
Coalition for Disability Health Equity  
Coalition for Health Funding

Coalition for National Health Education Organizations  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Colorado Children's Campaign  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service  
Community Benefit Consulting  
Community Healthworx  
County Welfare Directors Association of California  
Cuyahoga County Board of Health  
Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association  
District Health Department No. 2  
District Health Department No. 4  
Doctors for America  
Dorchester County Health Department  
Element Health, Inc.  
Equality California  
Evanston Health Advisory Council  
Family Solutions  
Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)  
Georgia Society for Public Health Education  
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality  
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice  
Government Accountability Project  
Grand Traverse County Health Department  
Greater Philadelphia Business Coalition on Health  
Harm Reduction Coalition  
Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center  
Hawaii Public Health Institute  
Health Care for America Now  
HealthConnect One  
Health Department of Northwest Michigan  
Health, Education and Legal Assistance Project: A Medical-Legal Partnership  
Health Education Partners  
Health Foundation of South Florida  
Health Reimagined  
Health Resources in Action  
Healthy Communities Wyandotte  
Healthy Kinder International  
Healthy Schools Campaign  
Hepatitis B Foundation  
Hepatitis Education Project  
Hep B United  
Hep Free Hawai'i  
Hispanic Health Initiatives, Inc.  
HIV Medicine Association  
Hope Whispers Community Organization Inc.  
Human Impact Partners

Human Rights Campaign  
iHealth  
Immunization Action Coalition  
Immunize Nevada  
Impetus - Let's Get Started LLC  
Improving Kids' Environments  
Indigescuela  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
Innovative Solutions for Disadvantage and Disability, Inc.  
Iowa Hunger Coalition  
Iowa Public Health Association  
Jefferson County (Colorado) Health Department  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
Johnson County Public Health  
Joy-Southfield Community Development Corporation  
Just God Academy  
Justice in Aging  
Lanai Community Health Center  
Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education & Policy, Teachers College Columbia University  
Liver Health Initiative  
Louisiana Public Health Association  
Louisiana Public Health Institute  
Lung Cancer Alliance  
Maine Public Health Association  
March of Dimes  
MaryCatherine Jones Consulting, LLC  
Maryland Partnership for Prevention, Inc.  
Mendocino County AIDS/Viral Hepatitis Network  
Mental Health America of Kentucky  
Metro St. Louis Coalition for Inclusion and Equity (M-SLICE)  
Minority Outreach Coalition  
MomsRising  
Monona County Public Health  
Mount Moriah Baptist Church – Omaha  
MPHI  
NAACP  
NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Association for Health and Fitness  
National Association of Community Health Centers  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of School Nurses  
National Association of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD)  
National Black Justice Coalition

National Black Nurses Association  
National Center for Healthy Housing  
National Coalition of STD Directors  
National Collaborative for Health Equity  
National Consumers League  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Environmental Health Association  
National Health Foundation  
National Health Law Program  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National Institute for Children's Health Quality (NICHQ)  
National League for Nursing  
National Medical Association  
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Physicians Alliance  
National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives  
National REACH Coalition  
National Recreation and Park Association  
National WIC Association  
National Women's Health Network  
National Women's Law Center  
National Working Positive Coalition  
Native American Connections  
Nebraska Action Coalition - Future of Nursing  
Network for Environmental & Economic Responsibility of United Church of Christ  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
New Jersey Association of County & City Health Officials  
New Jersey Public Health Association  
New Jersey Society for Public Health Education (NJ SOPHE)  
New Mexico Department of Health, State of New Mexico  
New Progressive Alliance  
New York City Health + Hospitals  
NM Pediatric Society  
North Bergen Health Department  
North Carolina Community Health Center Association  
North Montgomery Communities for Prosperity (M-CUP)  
Nurse-Family Partnership  
Obesity Action Coalition  
Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage Coalition  
Ohio Public Health Association  
OpenBiome, Inc.  
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility  
PFLAG National  
Philadelphia Physicians for Social Responsibility

Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Physicians for Social Responsibility, AZ Chapter  
Physicians for Social Responsibility, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Prevention Institute  
Primary Care Development Corporation (PCDC)  
Public Citizen  
Public Health Consultancy  
Public Health Foundation  
Public Health Institute  
Public Justice Center  
Rachel Carson Council  
Religious Institute  
Respiratory Health Association  
RiverStone Health  
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition  
Safe States Alliance  
School Social Work Association of America  
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS)  
Shoals Community Clinic  
Society for Prevention Research  
Society for Public Health Education  
Society of State Leaders of Health and Physical Education  
Somos Familia Valle  
South Central Family Health Center  
St. Mary's Center  
Street Level Health Project  
Sumner M. Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness at George Washington  
University  
Suncoast Health Council, Inc.  
Team HBV Collegiate Chapters  
Tennessee Health Care Campaign  
Tennessee Justice Center  
Texas Physicians for Social Responsibility  
The Arizona Partnership for Immunization  
The Center for Health Innovation  
The Consortium  
The Immunization Partnership  
The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health  
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Disease  
The Praxis Project  
The Prevent Cancer Foundation  
The Pride Center at Equality Park  
The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law  
The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America

Three Peas in a Pod  
Thrive At Life: Working Solutions  
TimeBanks USA  
Training Resources Network, Inc.  
Treatment Action Group (TAG)  
Tri-County Health Department  
Trust for America's Health  
United States Breastfeeding Committee  
Vaccinate Your Family  
Valley AIDS Council  
Washington County Public Health  
Washington State Department of Health  
Wayne State University Center for Health and Community Impact  
Weight Watchers of Las Vegas  
Wellco  
West Valley Neighborhoods Coalition  
WISE Health  
Within Our Reach  
Worry Free Community  
Zero to Three