

March 9, 2020

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

The 33 undersigned member organizations of the **National Coalition for Heart and Stroke Research** urge Congress to support the fight against heart disease, stroke, and other forms of cardiovascular disease (CVD) by including the following allocations in the FY 2021 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations bill.

Although advances in research and prevention have produced large reductions in cardiovascular disease, it remains the leading cause of death and disability for men and women in the United States. Previous declines in heart disease and stroke death rates have slowed and even reversed for certain demographics. Alongside these concerning mortality trends, cardiovascular disease spending has also risen steadily. Our coalition strongly urges Congress to fund heart disease and stroke in proportion to the high burden of these deadly yet preventable diseases.

- \$44.7 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including \$3.89 billion for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and \$2.62 billion for the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS);
- \$8.3 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including \$1.73 billion for the National Center for Chronic Disease and Health Promotion;
- \$160 million for CDC's Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention;
- \$125 million for CDC's Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity;
- \$46.7 million for CDC's WISEWOMAN; and
- \$5 million for CDC's Million Hearts.

Our coalition thanks Congress for its ongoing commitment to the **National Institutes of Health (NIH)** and recommend an FY 2021 appropriation of \$44.7 billion for the NIH, including \$3.89 billion for NHLBI, and \$2.62 billion for NINDS. This will allow the NIH to continue to pursue promising research that could ultimately unlock a cure for cardiovascular disease.

We are grateful for the important increases Congress provided for the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** in FY 2020. We urge you to build upon these investments to strengthen all of CDC's programs and ask you to support a funding level of at least \$8.3 billion in FY 2021. In addition, we request \$1.73 billion for the National Center for Chronic Disease and Health Promotion to support chronic disease prevention and public health initiatives.

An FY 2021 appropriation of \$160 million for **CDC's Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention** will support, strengthen and expand existing initiatives that target high-risk populations where CVD rates are rising, enhance surveillance and research, and guide public health strategies. The **CDC's Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity** is critical in preventing chronic disease and prolonging life, an appropriation of \$125 million will expand

the reach of the program nationally, allowing more communities and partners to incorporate evidence-based strategies that promote nutrition and physical activity.

An FY 2021 funding level of \$46.7 million for CDC's **WISEWOMAN** will allow more eligible women to benefit from this initiative by expanding it to all 50 states and the District of Columbia. **Well-Integrated Screening and Evaluation for Women Across the Nation** helps uninsured and under-insured low-income women ages 40 to 64 avoid heart disease and stroke, and offers preventive health services, referrals to local health care providers, and lifestyle counseling and interventions.

Providing an allocation of \$5 million for CDC's **Million Hearts 2022** will capitalize on the early success of a program that has already prevented an estimated 500,000 cardiac events since the initiative was first launched. Additional funding will accelerate the development of innovative, scalable ways for communities and health care providers to implement evidence-based approaches to improve cardiovascular health.

Heart disease, stroke and other forms of cardiovascular disease remain our nation's top killer and most expensive disease, costing nearly \$1 billion a day. This cost is projected to reach over \$1 trillion a year by 2035. Our budgetary recommendations for NIH and CDC will help reverse this trend by supporting more research and prevention to save lives and reduce health care costs. We urge Congress to support cardiovascular disease research and prevention programs by including our recommended funding levels in the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Adult Congenital Heart Association· American Academy of Neurology· American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation· American Association for Thoracic Surgery· American Association of Neurological Surgeons· American College of Cardiology· American College of Chest Physicians· American Heart Association· American Neurological Association· American Occupational Therapy Association· American Physical Therapy Association· American Society of Echocardiography· American Stroke Association· American Vascular Association Foundation· Association of Black Cardiologists· Child Neurology Society· Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation, Inc.· Congress of Neurological Surgeons· Heart Failure Society of America· Heart Rhythm Society· Heart Valve Voice US· Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association· Marfan Foundation· Mended Hearts, Inc.· Mended Little Hearts· Pediatric Congenital Heart Association· Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions· Society for Vascular Surgery· Society of Interventional Radiology· Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes Foundation· Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association· Women's Heart Alliance· WomenHeart: the National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease