



October 3, 2017

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chair, Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
2185 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member, Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
237 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Funding CHIP Using the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF) – **OPPOSE**

Dear Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Pallone,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing California's 58 counties, and the County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), representing California's 61 local health departments, respectfully must oppose using the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF) to fund the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). While we strongly support the reauthorization of CHIP, repurposing \$6.35 billion from the PPHF would mean core public health services, such as immunizations, epidemiology and lab capacity, and chronic disease prevention for conditions such as heart disease and diabetes would be endangered.

The PPHF was created in 2010 under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and is the first mandatory funding stream to support public health activities. The PPHF now provides roughly 12 percent of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) budget, which provides grants and program funding to state and local jurisdictions. In California, the PPHF funding received by counties has been used to build laboratory and epidemiology capacity, support implementation of population-wide approaches to preventing obesity and chronic disease, and support approaches aimed at reducing health disparities. These vital services, in addition to other communicable disease control, chronic disease prevention, and funding to support counties' abilities to prepare for and respond to public health emergencies, provided by the CDC to our state, would be adversely impacted.

CSAC and CHEAC firmly support the reauthorization of CHIP which provides affordable health care coverage to roughly two million low-income children and pregnant women in California. However, using the PPHF as the funding source without a clear plan for replacement would

seriously undermine the ability of counties to protect and promote the health of our communities.

For these reasons, we ask you to oppose any efforts to divert Prevention and Public Health Funds.

Sincerely,

As signed by

Farah McDaid Ting
Health and Behavioral Health Legislative Representative
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)

As signed by

Michelle Gibbons
Executive Director
County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC)

cc: Honorable Members, House Energy and Commerce Committee