



May 12, 2025

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Collins, Chairman Cole, Vice Chair Murray, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

Our organizations write to express our profound concern regarding the elimination of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Asthma Control Program (NACP) through the reductions and restructuring efforts that took place on April 1, 2025. This decision is both alarming and short-sighted, given the program's vital role in protecting the health of millions of people in the U.S. living with asthma. As you begin work on the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations process, we urge you to restore funding for this critical public health program and provide a \$6.5 million increase, bringing total funding to \$40 million.

The NACP provides an exceptional return on investment – saving more than \$70 in healthcare costs for every \$1 spent. With an increased focus on reducing the burden of chronic disease and the associated healthcare costs throughout Congress, this program exemplifies the type of cost-effective, evidence-based solution we need more of – not less. The long-term financial consequences of cutting this program far exceed the investment required to sustain it.

Asthma remains a serious and costly health issue in our nation. More than 26 million people in the U.S. live with asthma, including over 4.5 million children. It is a leading cause of

hospitalization and school absences due to chronic illness in children. Every year, asthma leads to nearly 1.8 million emergency department visits, more than 94,000 hospitalizations, and an estimated \$80 billion in healthcare costs, lost productivity and premature death. The disease accounts for over 7.9 million missed school days and 10.9 million missed workdays.

Since its creation in 1999, the NACP has demonstrated measurable success in reducing asthma-related hospitalizations and emergency room visits. Asthma mortality rates have dropped by 44% since the program began. It has helped states build data-driven programs that identify those most at risk and implement interventions proven to improve asthma outcomes. The program also strengthened collaboration between health departments, clinicians, schools and families which ensure that patients receive the information and care they need to stay healthy.

Currently, the NACP funds programs in 29 states. The program's sudden elimination has caused widespread uncertainty among state health departments about whether their asthma control efforts can continue. For families and individuals, the loss of this program isn't abstract – it means losing a lifeline that helps them manage a serious chronic disease.

Eliminating this program not only undermines decades of public health progress, but it also threatens to place even greater strain on our already overburdened emergency departments. Without the NACP, states will lose a critical tool for preventing costly emergency room visits and improving asthma care. Emergency rooms – already under strain – will see more avoidable crises. These are outcomes that are not only harmful to patients but also significantly more expensive for our healthcare system.

The modest investment in the NACP delivers substantial returns in dividends through improved health outcomes and reduced economic costs. As you consider the FY26 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill, we strongly urge you to restore and strengthen funding for the NACP and to safeguard public health programs that are grounded in evidence and proven to deliver results.

Sincerely,

Allergy and Asthma Network (AAN)
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Respiratory Care
American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology
American College of Chest Physicians
American Lung Association
American Public Health Association
American Thoracic Society

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Big Cities Health Coalition
Children's Environmental Health Network
COPD Foundation
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
Health Resources in Action
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National League for Nursing
National Network of Public Health Institutes