The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito Chair Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Capito and Ranking Member Baldwin:

We are writing to express our concern with President Trump's proposed discretionary budget for the Department of Health and Human Services for fiscal year 2026. The budget would eliminate the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

The elimination of the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP) would be detrimental to the public health infrastructure and would undermine the administration's objective of reducing chronic disease in the U.S. The National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion oversees the operation of nine chronic disease divisions including the Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity (DNPAO). DNPAO focuses on obesity prevention and treatment through identification and implementation of evidence-based interventions, quality standards, and epidemiologic surveillance of chronic diseases.

DNPAO is critical to addressing obesity disease prevention and treatment. Good nutrition and adequate physical activity improve health across the lifespan by supporting optimal growth and development in children, reducing the possibility of developing costly chronic diseases that can increase premature mortality. Yet, few Americans meet recommendations for a healthy diet or adequate physical activity, and many suffer chronic diseases and related health consequences.

DNPAO provides national guidance, training, and data tools that millions of health professionals rely on. Below are some of the many programs, research, and data that DNPAO supports that would be eliminated if DNPAO was no longer funded:

• **CDC growth charts**. DNPAO implements and disseminates the CDC growth charts used by pediatricians at every visit to track all children's growth over time and help kids grow up healthy. Tracking growth is an essential part of every well-child visit that can provide an early warning if a child has a medical problem.

- The CDC BMI Calculators. The BMI Calculator is one of the most trusted CDC tools, used by more than 1 million individuals every month. Without it, the US will lose a simple and cost-effective way to assess health risk—making it harder to take action before serious problems develop.
- Annual Obesity Maps. DNPAO's annual obesity maps help the U.S. track the burden of obesity as a disease over time. These maps track obesity prevalence, associated health problems and the cost to individuals, families and the health care system. Many states rely solely on this data to describe the burden of obesity and inform decision-making. Without the obesity prevalence data, states, healthcare providers, and others would lose a trusted tool to see where and how the obesity problem is growing—and how to respond.
- Access to nutritious food for infants and children. DNPAO funding provides access to:
 - produce prescription programs that give patients free or discounted fruits and vegetables to manage their health;
 - programs that provide childcare centers with fresh food grown by local farmers;
 and
 - breastfeeding support in hospitals for mothers and infants, a practice that prevents serious infections, asthma, and obesity.
- Proven prevention and lifestyle programs. DNPAO funding provides support for:
 - Family Healthy Weight Programs, a proven chronic disease prevention and lifestyle program for millions of kids with excess weight. This includes a national list of effective family lifestyle prevention programs that are readily available for healthcare providers to refer patients to and payers to cover. DNPAO funds state and local programs across the U.S. to implement the family health weight programs. These funds would be lost and programs ended.
 - Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) to run, sustain, and improve obesity prevention programs that make a real difference in people's lives. Without this support, healthcare providers in FQHCs would lose critical infrastructure to provide evidence-based obesity prevention programs. FQHCs play a vital role in providing healthcare to children and older adults and support evidence-based health promotion programs. They are seen as "safety net providers", responsible for getting care to the nation's most vulnerable populations.
 - State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN), High Obesity Program (HOP) and Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH), all programs to reduce the risk of chronic disease. In 2023, CDC funded 17 states, 50 communities and tribal organizations, and 16 land grant universities through these three programs, which focus on proven strategies to improve nutrition and

physical activity, reduce health disparities, and advance the nation's chronic disease prevention efforts.

Obesity rates will continue to rise. The Administration's goal of reducing chronic disease by improving and increasing physical activity and nutrition will be thwarted without the work of DNPAO. We strongly encourage you to ensure that the HHS budget for 2026 includes the continuation of DNPAO programs and data. These programs are evidence-based and vital to the health of the nation. Given the administration's focus on addressing chronic diseases, we need these programs now more than ever. DNPAO must remain intact as part of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Sincerely,

A Philip Randolph Institute

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Advocacy Action Network

Advocates for Better Children's Diets

Advocates for Responsible Care

Alliance for Women's Health and Prevention

American Academy of Physician Associates

American Association of Clinical Endocrinology

American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

American Diabetes Association

American Diabetes Association/ Obesity Association

American Gastroenterological Association

American Kidney Fund

American Liver Foundation

American Medical Women's Association

American Psychological Association Services

American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery

American Society for Nutrition

American Society for Preventive Cardiology

American Society on Aging

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

ARCH Community Health Coalition

Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists

Association of State Public Health Nutritionists

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses

Better Living Fitness

Boys & Girls Club of Richland County

California Chronic Care Coalition

Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands

CancerCare

Caregiver Action Network

Caring Ambassadors Program

Center for Patient Advocacy Leader

Center for Wellness and Nutrition

Chess Solutions Group

Choose Healthy Life

Choose Healthy Life

Christian Council of Delmarva

Chronic Care Policy Alliance

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

Color of Gastrointestinal Illnesses

Colorado Gynecologic Cancer Alliance

Colorado Obesity Society

Common Threads

Conscienhealth

Crohn's & Colitis Foundation

Diabetes Leadership Council

Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition

Endocrine Society

Fatty Liver Foundation

Field & Fork Network

Florida Osteopathic Medical Association

Gaining Health

Gerontological Society of America

Get Healthy Utah

Global Healthy Living Foundation

Global Liver Institute

Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities

Grow Portland

Healthy Communities of the Capital Area

Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids

Healthy Redesign

Healthy Savannah

HealthyWomen

Heathy Food America

International Cancer Advocacy Network

Illinois Food Justice Alliance

Illinois Public Health Association

Kentucky Association of School Administrators

Kentucky Voices for Health

La Leche League Alliance

League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

Liver Coalition of San Diego

Looms for Lupus

Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.

Maine Farm & Sea to Institution

MANA, A National Latina Organization

Mental Health Association in New York State

Michigan Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Missouri Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Missouri Psychological Association

MoKan Weight Loss and Metabolic Health LLC

Movement is Life

NAHN NY CHAPTER

National Asian Pacific Center on Aging

National Association of Hispanic Nurses

National Association of Social Workers

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

National Black Nurses Association

National Consumers League

National Council on Aging

National Hispanic Health Foundation

National Kidney Foundation

National Psoriasis Foundation

Nevada Chronic Care Collaborative

New Mexico Podiatric Medical Association

New York State Academy for Nutrition and Dietetics (NYSAND)

New York State Academy of Family Physicians

New York Statewide Breastfeeding Coalition (NYSBC)

Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition

Nourish Colorado

Obesity Action Coalition

Obesity Care Advocacy Network

Obesity Medicine Association

Ohio Chapter of the American College of Cardiology

Organization for Latino Health Advocacy

Pottstown Medical Specialists, Inc.

Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association

Project Roots

Raymond A. Wood Foundation

Roots of Life

Ruby A. Neeson Diabetes Awareness Foundation

Rx in Reach Georgia Coalition

San Antonio Obesity Society

Shoals Community Clinic

Society for Public Health Education

Society for Women's Health Research

Society of Behavioral Medicine

STOP Obesity Alliance

Texas Academy of Family Physicians

The Center for Science in the Public Interest

The International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement (ICHOM)

The Mended Hearts, Inc.

The Obesity Society

The Ohio Kentucky Chapter of the ASMBS

Tri-County Community Action Teams

Trust for America's Health

University of Kentucky, Department of Integrated Strategic Communication

Weigh to Wellness Denver

Western Colorado Weight Care

Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards

Wisconsin Public Health Association

WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease

Wound Care Clinic - ESU

YMCA of the USA

Zuckerman Family Cener for Prevention & Health Promotion