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September 28, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of our more than 30 million volunteers and supporters, the American Heart Association and our division, the American Stroke Association, urges you to oppose the Reconciliation Instructions proposed for consideration by the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which would repeal the Prevention and Public Health Fund. This proposal would eliminate \$15.5 billion in funding for important public health activities over the next decade, severely impacting initiatives to improve Americans' cardiovascular health.

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the leading cause of death in the United States and our nation's most costly disease. CVD is largely preventable, and studies estimate that people who practice several healthy habits through middle age have only a six to eight percent chance of developing CVD in their lifetimes. However, only 18 percent of U.S. adults follow just three important measures recommended by the American Heart Association for optimal health: not smoking, maintaining a healthy body weight, and exercising at moderate-vigorous intensity for at least 30 minutes, five days per week.

The Prevention Fund represents an unprecedented investment in programs that can help Americans adopt healthy habits and ultimately drive down our nation's rising healthcare costs. For example, the Prevention Fund supports evidence-based initiatives like Tips from Former Smokers, a national tobacco education campaign, and Million Hearts, a public-private initiative to prevent one million heart attacks and strokes by 2017.

We urge you to oppose the Energy and Commerce Reconciliation Instructions and any measure that would repeal or reduce funding for the Prevention Fund.

Sincerely,

Sue A. Nelson  
Vice President, Federal Advocacy  
American Heart Association | American Stroke Association

cc: Members of the Committee on Energy and Commerce

*"Building healthier lives, free of  
cardiovascular diseases and stroke."*

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*Please remember the American Heart Association in your will.*

