



September 20, 2017

**OFFICERS**

The Hon. Michael N. Castle, Chair  
The Hon. John Edward Porter, Chair Emeritus  
The Hon. Kweisi Mfume, Vice Chair  
Mary Woolley, President  
E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, Secretary  
Lucinda Maine, PhD, RPh, Treasurer

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Tenley E. Albright, MD  
Hortensia Amaro, PhD  
Georges C. Benjamin, MD  
Nancy Brown  
Susan Dentzer  
Victor J. Dzau, MD  
Susan Fitzpatrick, PhD  
Jay A. Gershen, DDS, PhD  
The Hon. Bart Gordon  
William N. Hait, MD, PhD  
Larry Hausner, MBA  
Mary J.C. Hendrix, PhD  
Martha N. Hill, PhD, RN  
Rush D. Holt, PhD  
Harry Johns  
Elizabeth Baker Keffer  
Debra R. Lappin, JD  
Alan I. Leshner, PhD  
James L. Madara, MD  
Mark McClellan, MD, PhD  
Herbert Pardes, MD  
Sudip S. Parikh, PhD  
Harold L. Paz, MD, MS  
Gary M. Reedy  
Amy Comstock Rick, JD  
Laing Rogers  
Larry J. Shapiro, MD  
Gregory Sorensen, MD  
Keith R. Yamamoto, PhD  
Elias A. Zerhouni, MD

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer,

On behalf of Research!America, the nation’s largest not-for-profit alliance working to accelerate medical progress and strengthen our nation’s public health system, I urge you to reject any attempt to reduce or eliminate the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

It is counter to the interests of our nation to reduce this pragmatic, fiscally responsible fund, with its emphasis on stopping deadly and costly diseases before they rob Americans of independence, resources, and time. Analyses of economic outcomes have consistently concluded that prevention programs can save significant amounts of money in the short- and long-term. Looking at Alzheimer’s disease alone, a delayed onset of disease for five years would result in annual savings totaling \$376 billion by 2050. The Prevention and Public Health Fund provides resources for prevention programs throughout the country spanning a wide array of conditions, including heart disease and stroke, substance abuse, obesity, cancer, lead poisoning, suicide and diabetes.

The fund also provides resources for vital infectious disease surveillance and response systems, which allow communities to better prepare and protect their citizens. And it is being used to reduce health care-associated infections, which take the lives of tens of thousands of Americans each year. The benefits of the PPHF extend far beyond these examples, but they are indicative of its positive impact.

We firmly believe that whether the goal is to advance the well-being of Americans or reduce the nation’s health care costs, the elimination of the Prevention and Public Health Fund runs counter to those goals. It is imperative that the Prevention and Public Health Fund is preserved.

Thank you for your leadership and your stewardship for our nation’s priorities.

Sincerely,

Mary Woolley  
President and CEO

241 18th Street South  
Suite 501  
Arlington, VA 22202

P 703.739.2577

F 703.739.2372

E [info@researchamerica.org](mailto:info@researchamerica.org)