



November 17, 2020

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Minority Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Minority Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt, Ranking Member Murray, Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) – the leading patient organization for people with asthma and allergies, and the oldest asthma and allergy patient group in the world – thanks you for your support over the years of the National Asthma Control Program (NACP). As you work to negotiate a final House-Senate conference report to fiscal year 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, we urge you to agree to and include in the final bill the House-approved funding level of \$33 million for the NACP.

More than 24 million Americans live with asthma, including 5.5 million children. Approximately 3,500 Americans die each year from asthma. In addition, asthma costs our health care system more than \$50 billion each year, and results in almost \$3 billion in lost school and work days and \$29 billion from mortality.

Established in 1999, the NACP serves as the nation's preeminent agency for reducing the incidence of asthma, as well as asthma-related emergency room visits and deaths. Currently, the NACP funds projects in 25 state, territorial, and municipal partners. Funding the NACP at \$33 million will ensure the program can continue to meet the needs of funded states and allow for better surveillance, management and treatment of asthma. Currently, CDC does not have comprehensive surveillance data for asthma nationwide, making it difficult to compare statistics across states, cities and territories. An increase in funding would provide CDC with resources to conduct better monitoring of asthma and identify states, regions and communities with the greatest burden of disease.

The need for the NACP has never been greater, and we therefore urge the House and Senate conferees to fund the NACP at the House-approved level of \$33 million in FY21 to ensure the program can continue to meet the needs of funded-states as well as add additional states to expand our nation's response to asthma.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Mendez
President and Chief Executive Officer



Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America