



June 30, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito Chair  
Senate Appropriations Committee Labor, Health and  
Human Services, and  
Related Agencies Subcommittee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Committee Labor, Health and  
Human Services, and Related Agencies Subcommittee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt Chair  
House Appropriations Committee Labor, Health and  
Human Services, and  
Related Agencies Subcommittee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee Labor, Health and  
Human Services, and Related Agencies Subcommittee  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Capito and Aderholt and Ranking Members Baldwin and DeLauro:

As former presidents of the American College of Sports Medicine® (ACSM), we write to express urgent concerns regarding the proposed elimination of the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP) in the FY 2026 President's Budget. This cut would end support for key programs that aim to prevent childhood chronic disease in the Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity (DNPAO) and the Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH). Recognizing that we still have an obesity crisis in America, these programs should be strengthened, not weakened, to support Secretary Kennedy's vision to make America healthy again.

The widely respected Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans provide science-based recommendations on the types and amounts of physical activity needed to maintain health and prevent chronic diseases. DNPAO and DASH translate those national guidelines into action by supporting evidence-based programs in schools and communities.

Even though physical activity levels have improved over the past 20 years, far too many Americans fall short of meeting the recommended activity levels, especially children. The low level of physical fitness among youth has economic and national security implications. We cannot reverse our childhood chronic

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disease crisis or improve the health of future generations without these investments. We respectfully urge you to fully fund DNPAO and DASH. Together, we can build on the progress we have made as a nation by increasing physical activity, not taking steps backward.

ACSM is the largest sports medicine and exercise science organization in the world, with nearly 50,000 members and certified professionals in more than 100 countries. We advocate for making physical activity a priority, and our subject matter experts stand ready to support your efforts to invest in a safer, healthier and more resilient future for all Americans.

Thank you for your consideration and continued leadership on behalf of the public's health.

Sincerely,

James Skinner, PhD, FACSM  
Paul D. Thompson, MD, FACSM  
Anastasia Fischer, MD, FACSM  
Neil Oldridge, PhD, FACSM  
Melinda Millard-Stafford, PhD, FACSM  
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William Kraus, MD, FACSM  
J. Larry Durstine, PhD, FACSM  
Irene Davis, PhD, FACSM  
Carol Ewing Garber, PhD, FACSM

Cc:

The Honorable Susan Collins  
The Honorable Patty Murray  
The Honorable Tom Cole

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