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October 8, 2015

The Honorable Tom Price
Chairman
House Budget Committee
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
Ranking Member
House Budget Committee
1707 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Van Hollen:

On behalf of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to improving the health of every American through evidence-based behavioral research and interventions, I'm writing to voice our strong opposition to the Reconciliation Instructions proposed for consideration by the House Energy and Commerce Committee. As you know, the instructions would fully repeal and eliminate current and future funding for the Prevention and Public Health Fund (the Prevention Fund). On this basis alone, we urge you to oppose passage of this proposal—which would eliminate \$15.5 billion in future funding (FY16-FY25) for critical public health and prevention activities.

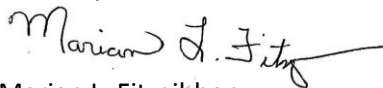
Our health care system usually treats people after they become sick. But lives—and dollars—can be saved by preventing disease onset. Currently seven in 10 U.S. deaths are related to preventable diseases like obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and cancer. Those diseases also account for 86% of health care spending in America. Imagine if we could reduce those figures. The Prevention Fund is working to do just that.

In the six years since its inception, the Prevention Fund has invested nearly \$5.25 billion in states, communities, tribal, and community organizations for community-based behavioral prevention services, including tobacco use prevention, cancer screenings, healthy eating and active living programs, and childhood immunizations. Decimating the Prevention Fund would dramatically impede efforts to improve health. An approach to deficit reconciliation that cuts prevention may in fact have the opposite effect—less prevention of illness and disease, and increased future health care spending.

We join over 900 state and national organizations that have pledged their support for the Prevention Fund. **We strongly urge you to oppose the Energy and Commerce Reconciliation Instructions and any measure that would repeal or reduce funding for the Prevention and Public Health Fund.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Marian L. Fitzgibbon,
President, Society of Behavioral Medicine

Cc: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives Budget Committee