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August 24, 2015

Congress Member Zoe Lofgren
Congress Member Anna Eshoo
Congress Member Mike Honda
Congress Member Sam Farr
Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Dianne Feinstein

Dear Federal Representatives of Santa Clara County:

I am writing to request your support to preserve \$60 million of funding for FY2016 for the Partnerships to Improve Community Health – Community Health Grant, under the purview of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Partnerships to Improve Community Health provides funding to 13 large cities/urban counties, 20 small cities/counties and 6 American Indian tribes/tribal organizations to implement evidence-based chronic disease prevention strategies. Grantees work with cross-sector community partners and businesses to reduce tobacco use, increase physical activity and expand access to nutrition in order to reduce costly chronic diseases like heart disease and diabetes.

This funding currently supports the Santa Clara County Public Health Department and over 150 community partners in preventing chronic disease that supports and targets the most vulnerable populations. All of these proactive measures contribute to the prevention of risk factors such as obesity, diabetes, and heart disease.

If this funding is eliminated, the negative impacts will be:

- *Loss of nearly \$4 million into the local economy* that will support non-profit organizations to improve health outcomes and address diabetes, obesity and heart disease
- *Loss of jobs for 70 workers* who are funded with partnerships through businesses, cities and organizations
- *Loss of education and prevention messaging to 1.8 million* residents in Santa Clara County, thereby contributing to costlier treatments and skyrocketing health care costs

Funding is need so that we can continue to build on the following successes we have already achieved:

- *Protecting 150,000 youth and 95,000 young adults* by restricting access to tobacco through:
 - the raising of the minimum purchase age of tobacco in Santa Clara County;
 - a new requirement in the City of Saratoga that requires stores to obtain a license in order to sell tobacco;

- the City of San Jose restricting access to tobacco promotion through coupons that target young adults;
- Providing technical assistance to over *100 local non-profit organizations* for developing tobacco-free, healthy food and beverage environments and active and safe communities.
- Training over *150 businesses* on how to institutionalize healthy food and beverage standards w to eliminate the availability of high-fat, sugary options
- Engaging over *120 organizations* in best-practice strategies to increase physical activity through Safe Routes to School, transportation and land use planning.
- Assisting *900,000 residents* in Santa Clara County, who could be at-risk for diabetes, access diabetes self-management education and diabetes prevention resources through the establishment of an electronic directory
- Financially supporting up to *15 cities* to increase employee and resident access to healthy food, parks, and trails that could impact up to *1.8 million individuals*
- Creating access to fresh produce for *51,000 low-income individuals* by increasing the number of Farmers' Markets that accept CalFresh (food stamps)
- Screening for *500 diabetic and pre-diabetic individuals*, through partnerships, and establishing a referral process to local health clinics and health education resources

The Partnerships to Improve Community Health funding is vital to improving the health of Santa Clara County residents and our communities. I encourage you to vote to continue to support this funding.

Sincerely,



Jason T. Baker
President, Cities Association of Santa Clara County
Vice Mayor, City of Campbell