

October 16, 2017

**RE: Budget for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

Dear Chairman Cochran, Vice Chairman Leahy, and other members of the Senate Committee on Appropriations,

We write collectively as a group of scientists, clinicians, health professionals and children's advocates, to express our strong support for EPA standards and programs that:

1. Protect children's and pregnant women's health and
2. Enable the EPA to carry out its mandate to protect communities from pesticides and toxic chemicals using the most current science and scientific practices.

The health of the public, especially those who are most vulnerable, depends on the EPA having enough resources to carry out the research, programs and processes described in more detail below. We urge you to support a budget for EPA that maintains or increases funding for these critical areas. Funds directed to EPA are a wise investment of taxpayer dollars that provides returns many times over in the form of healthy children, pregnant women, families and communities—the human resources who form the critical foundation of a thriving and growing economy.

**1. EPA programs help protect children's and pregnant women's health from toxic chemicals in the air, water, home and other environments.**

We support maintaining or increasing the allocation of funds to EPA's Science To Achieve Results (STAR) programs for research on children's and pregnant women's health and effects of the environment. The STAR program engages some of the nation's best scientists, researchers, and engineers through grants and graduate fellowships for research complementing EPA's own intramural research program. This funding mechanism supports specialized research that is critical to inform science-based policy- and decision-making at the Agency that is not funded elsewhere.

We support maintaining or increasing the allocation of funds to programs to prevent lead poisoning and exposures to air pollutants and toxic chemicals in children and pregnant women and for environmental justice programs. As the ongoing Flint water crisis and recovery show, there is still a critical need to support these programs at the federal, state and local levels. Lead is a known neurotoxic chemical that has no safe exposure level, and yet children are still being exposed to this and many damaging chemicals around the nation. The Flint events also highlight that low-income and communities of color bear disproportionate burdens of toxic chemical exposures; thus, continued funding for environmental justice programs and federal oversight are also needed.

We support maintaining or increasing the allocation of funds for local and state programs to monitor and improve the quality of the environment, which are vital to ensure healthy communities. For example, state and local air quality management, water pollution control, public water system supervision, Superfund, and brownfields programs are just a few of the many programs that are essential to ensure that the environment is free of dangerous levels of substances that could threaten children's and pregnant women's health. These programs have a proven track record of carrying out the activities necessary to provide cleaner air, water and environments for families; we are very concerned

that reducing funding to these programs could reverse this progress and result in higher exposures to hazardous chemicals in the air, water, food, and household consumer products we encounter daily.

We support maintaining or increasing the allocation of funds for federal and state enforcement of statutes and regulations under EPA authority. Enforcement of environmental regulations is critical to protecting the health of pregnant women and children, and air and water quality from hazardous chemicals and pollutants. Enforcement ensures a level playing field, so corporations that violate the law do not gain an economic advantage over those corporations that act in accordance with regulations that protect public health and the environment.

We support funding to maintain or increase EPA's total budget. EPA's work under all of the major statutes has far-reaching impacts on children's and pregnant women's environmental health. EPA's workload is increasing, while its budgets have not kept pace. At minimum, EPA's 2016 appropriations levels for funding and for staff (full-time equivalent (FTE)) should be maintained.

## **2. EPA's research and the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) program are critical to evaluate pesticides and chemicals and protect the public from those that pose unreasonable risks.**

We support funding to maintain or increase EPA's research budget. The EPA Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention is tasked with protecting Americans from risky pesticides, industrial, commercial and consumer product chemicals in their homes, workplaces and communities. Last year, Congress passed the Lautenberg Amendment reforms to the Toxic Substances Control Act, which EPA is now implementing. The Agency has enormous statutory obligations and responsibility to protect families from dangerous chemicals; EPA's total research budget should be realigned to reflect this.

We support fully funding the IRIS program. The IRIS program carries out independent assessments of chemicals, which are important resources for local, state and national authorities to use in decision making on hazardous chemicals, including informing regulations and clean-up standards. As reported by EPA's Scientific Advisory Board (September, 2017), the IRIS program incorporates a number of scientific best practices in their assessment process, including appropriate evaluation of study risk of bias (not numerical scoring of reporting quality); integrating primary toxicity information and health effects from animal and human studies, supported by mechanistic or other types of data; and using free and open source collaborative software to facilitate cross-Agency collaborations, communication, and public transparency.<sup>1</sup> Funding for the IRIS program is needed for EPA to move forward with chemical evaluations and make science-based decisions as required by law.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our input on appropriations for EPA. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions regarding these comments. The signers' institutional affiliations below are included for identification purposes only and do not necessarily imply any institutional endorsement or support, unless indicated otherwise.

---

<sup>1</sup> Memo from EPA Scientific Advisory Board to Administrator Pruitt, Sept 1, 2017. *Science Advisory Board comments on EPA's response to recommendations on the Integrated Risk Information System.*  
[https://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabproduct.nsf/0/A9A9ACCE42B6AA0E8525818E004CC597/\\$File/EPA-SAB-17-008.pdf](https://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabproduct.nsf/0/A9A9ACCE42B6AA0E8525818E004CC597/$File/EPA-SAB-17-008.pdf)

Sincerely,

Veena Singla, PhD, Director of Research Translation; Juleen Lam, PhD, Research Scientist; and Tracey Woodruff, PhD, Director  
Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment  
University of California, San Francisco

Laura Anderko RN PhD  
Professor & Robert and Kathleen Scanlon Endowed Chair in Values Based Healthcare  
School of Nursing & Health Studies, Georgetown University

Ann Aschengrau, ScD  
Professor of Epidemiology  
Boston University School of Public Health

Kathy Attar, MPH  
Toxics Program Manager  
Physicians for Social Responsibility

Edward Avol, MS  
Professor, Department of Preventive Medicine  
University of Southern California

John Balmes, MD  
Professor of Medicine, UCSF  
Professor of Environmental Health Sciences, School of Public Health, UC Berkeley

Jacqueline M. Barkoski, MPH, PhD  
Postdoctoral Scholar, Department of Public Health Sciences  
University of California, Davis

Naomi Bardach  
Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Health Policy  
University of California San Francisco

David C. Bellinger, PhD, MSc  
Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard Medical School  
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Eugene B. Benson, JD  
Adjunct Professor, City Planning and Urban Affairs, Boston University Metropolitan College  
Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor of Environmental Health  
Boston University School of Public Health

Lisa Bero, PhD  
Professor, University of Sydney  
Adjunct Professor, University of California, San Francisco

Leslie I. Boden, PhD  
Professor  
Boston University School of Public Health

Bruce Blumberg, PhD  
Professor, Department of Developmental and Cell Biology  
University of California, Irvine

Asa Bradman, PhD, MS  
Associate Director, Center for Environmental Research and Children's Health (CERCH)  
Associate Adjunct Professor of Environmental Health Sciences  
School of Public Health, UC Berkeley

Phil Brown, PhD  
University Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Health Sciences  
Northeastern University

Susan Buchanan, MD, MPH  
Associate Professor and Director  
Great Lakes Center for Children's Environmental Health  
University of Illinois at Chicago

Marie Angeliqe Cabiya, MD  
Physician  
Advocate Medical Group

Carla Campbell, MD, MS, FAAP  
Associate Professor of Public Health, MPH Program Director  
Department of Public Health Sciences, College of Health Sciences  
University of Texas at El Paso

Adelita G. Cantu, PhD, RN  
Associate Professor  
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

Courtney Carignan, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Michigan State University

Susan D. Chapnick  
President & Principal Scientist  
New Environmental Horizons, Inc.

Aimin Chen, MD, PhD  
Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Health  
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine

Terrence J. Collins, Ph.D., Hon FRSNZ  
Teresa Heinz Professor of Green Chemistry  
Director, Institute for Green Science  
Department of Chemistry, Carnegie Mellon University

Jeanne A Conry, MD PhD  
Past President  
The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
President and CEO, The Environmental Health Leadership Foundation

Carl F. Cranor, PhD, MSL  
Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and Faculty Member of Environmental Toxicology  
University of California, Riverside

Kathryn Crawford, MS  
Graduate Student  
Boston University School of Public Health

Nathaniel G. DeNicola, MD, MSHP  
Assistant Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology  
George Washington University  
Vice Chair of Telehealth Taskforce  
American Congress of Obstetricians & Gynecologists

Kristie Ellickson, PhD  
Graduate Faculty, Environmental Health  
University of Minnesota

Brenda Eskenazi, PhD  
Jennifer and Brian Maxwell Professor of Maternal and Child Health and Epidemiology  
Director, Center for Environmental Research and Children's Health (CERCH)  
School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley

Shohreh Farzan, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Preventive Medicine  
Keck School of Medicine  
University of Southern California

Steven G. Gilbert, PhD, DABT  
Executive Director  
Institute of Neurotoxicology & Neurological Disorders

Myron L. Gildesgame, PhD.  
Retired, Director and Chief Planner  
Massachusetts Office of Water Resources

Barbara Gottlieb  
Environment & Health Director  
Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Washington, DC

Robert M. Gould, MD  
Associate Adjunct Professor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences  
University of California, San Francisco  
President, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, Physicians for Social Responsibility

Mark E. Hahn, PhD  
Senior Scientist, Biology Department  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Alycia Halladay, PhD  
Chief Science Officer, Autism Science Foundation  
Adjunct, Dept. of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Rutgers University

Kim Harley, MPH, PhD  
Associate Adjunct Professor, Maternal and Child Health  
Associate Director for Health Effects, Center for Environmental Research and Children's Health  
University of California, Berkeley

Dale Hattis, PhD  
Research Professor  
The George Perkins Marsh Institute  
Clark University

Marissa Hauptman, MD, MPH  
Physician  
Boston Children's Hospital

Russ Hauser, MD  
Professor of Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology  
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Erin Haynes, DrPH, MS  
Associate Professor of Environmental Health  
College of Medicine, University of Cincinnati

Wendy Heiger-Bernays, PhD  
Clinical Professor of Environmental Health  
Director, EH MPH Program and EHA Certificate  
Boston University School of Public Health

Amy Herring, ScD  
Professor  
Duke University

Irva Hertz-Picciotto, PhD  
Director, Environmental Health Sciences Center, UC Davis  
Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences and the MIND Institute  
University of California, Davis

Joan F. Hilton  
Professor  
Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics  
University of California, San Francisco

Deborah Hirtz M.D.  
Professor, Neurological Sciences and Pediatrics  
University of Vermont School of Medicine

Maeve Howett, PhD  
Assistant Dean and Clinical Professor, College of Nursing  
University of Massachusetts Amherst

Katie Huffling, RN, MS, CNM  
Executive Director  
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

H. Patricia Hynes, PhD  
Emeritus Professor of Environmental Health  
Boston University School of Public Health

Dan Jaffe, PhD,  
Professor and Chair, Physical Sciences Division  
School of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math  
University of Washington

Doreen Karoll, MD  
Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrician  
Clinical Instructor, Boston University Medical School

Patricia D. Koman, PhD, MPP  
President and Senior Scientist  
Green Barn Research Associates

Erica Koustas, PhD  
Scientific Consultant  
University of California, San Francisco

Carol Kwiatkowski, PhD  
Executive Director, The Endocrine Disruption Exchange (TEDX)  
Assistant Professor Adjunct, North Carolina State University and  
University of Colorado, Boulder

Diana J. Laird, PhD  
Associate Professor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences  
University of California, San Francisco

Philip J. Landrigan, MD, MSc, FAAP  
Dean for Global Health  
Professor of Environmental Medicine, Public Health and Pediatrics  
Arnhold Institute for Global Health  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Bruce P. Lanphear, MD, MPH  
Clinician Scientist, Child & Family Research Institute, BC Children's Hospital Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, BC

Patricia Lasley  
PEHSU Region 5 Coordinator  
University of Illinois, Chicago

Arthur Lavin, M.D.  
Advanced Pediatrics  
Cleveland, OH

Soo-Jeong Lee  
Associate Professor  
School of Nursing, University of California San Francisco

Jonathan Levy, ScD  
Interim Chair and Professor  
Department of Environmental Health  
Boston University School of Public Health

Patricia Janulewicz Lloyd, DSc  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Environmental Health  
Boston University School of Public Health

Peggy Lopipero-Langmo, MPH  
Environmental Science Instructor  
City College of San Francisco

Jennifer Lowry, MD, FAAP  
Pediatrician and Toxicologist  
Kansas City, MO

Ulrike Luderer, MD, PhD  
Professor, Department of Developmental and Cell Biology  
University of California, Irvine



Kristen Malecki  
Assistant Professor  
University of Wisconsin, Madison

Emily Marquez, Ph.D.  
Staff Scientist  
Pesticide Action Network

Andres Martinez, PhD  
Research engineer  
Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering  
The University of Iowa

Ethan Mascoop, MPH  
Boston University School of Public Health

Rob McConnell, MD  
Professor of Preventive Medicine  
University of Southern California

Jennifer McPartland, PhD  
Senior Scientist, Health Program  
Environmental Defense Fund

Catherine Metayer, MD, PhD  
Faculty, School of Public Health  
University of California, Berkeley

David Michaels, PhD, MPH  
Professor, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health  
Milken Institute School of Public Health  
The George Washington University

Mark Miller MD, MPH  
Assistant Clinical Professor  
University of California, San Francisco

Pamela Miller  
Executive Director, Alaska Community Action on Toxics  
Anchorage, AK

Mark A. Mitchell M.D., MPH, FACPM  
Chair, National Medical Association Council on Medical Legislation  
Co-Chair, National Medical Association Commission on Environmental Health

Stefano Monti, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Medicine and Biostatistics  
Boston University, Boston, MA

Rachel Morello-Frosch, PhD, MPH  
Professor, School of Public Health  
University of California, Berkeley

Raymond Neutra, DrPH, MPH  
Principal, Raymond Richard Neutra Consultants

Thomas B. Newman, MD, MPH  
Professor Emeritus of Epidemiology & Biostatistics and Pediatrics, School of Medicine  
University of California, San Francisco

Peter Orris, MD, MPH  
Professor and Chief, Occupational & Environmental Medicine  
University of Illinois Hospital and Health Science System

David Ozonoff, MD, MPH  
Professor of Environmental Health  
Boston University School of Public Health

Vasantha Padmanabhan, MS, PhD  
Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Molecular and Integrative Physiology  
and Environmental Health Sciences  
University of Michigan

Heather Patisaul, PhD  
Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences  
NC State University

Katherine Pelch PhD  
Senior Scientist  
The Endocrine Disruption Exchange

Frederica P. Perera, DrPH, PhD  
Professor of Public Health  
Director, Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health  
Dept. of Environmental Health Sciences  
Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

Elena Rios, MD, MSPH, FACP  
President & CEO  
National Hispanic Medical Association

Beate Ritz MD, PhD  
Professor of Epidemiology  
Center for Occupational and Environmental Health  
FSPH, UCLA

Joshua F. Robinson  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences  
University of California, San Francisco

Melissa Rose, MPH  
Program Manager  
Environmental Health Sciences Center  
Center for Children's Environmental Health  
University of California, Davis

Nancy C. Rothman, Ph.D.  
CEO & Principal Scientist  
New Environmental Horizons, Inc.

Leslie Rubin, MD  
Physician  
Break the Cycle of Health Disparities, Inc

Ruthann Rudel, MS  
Director of Research  
Silent Spring Institute

Madeleine K. Scammell, DSc  
Associate Professor of Environmental Health  
Boston University School of Public Health

Susan L. Schantz, PhD  
Professor of Toxicology and Neuroscience, Illinois Children's Environmental Health Research Center  
Director, Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology  
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Ted Schettler MD, MPH  
Science Director  
Science and Environmental Health Network

Perry Sheffield, MD, MPH  
Assistant Professor  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

David Sherr, Ph.D.  
Professor  
Boston University

Gordon J. Strewler, MD  
Professor of Medicine  
University of California, San Francisco

Patrice Sutton, MPH  
Research Scientist  
Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment  
University of California, San Francisco

Maureen Swanson, MPA  
Director, Healthy Children Project  
Co-Director, Project TENDR (Targeting Environmental Neuro-Developmental Risks)  
Learning Disabilities Association of America

Evelyn O. Talbott, DrPH, MPH  
Professor, Dept of Epidemiology  
University of Pittsburgh

Tanya Khemet Taiwo, MPH PhD.  
Dept. of Epidemiology  
University of California, Davis

Ho Luong Tran, MD, MPH  
President & CEO  
National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians

Laura N Vandenberg  
Assistant Professor  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Ondine von Ehrenstein, PhD  
Associate Professor, Department of Community Health Sciences  
Fielding School of Public Health  
University of California, Los Angeles

Aolin Wang, PhD  
Postdoctoral Scholar  
Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment  
University of California, San Francisco

Thomas Webster, DSc  
Professor, Dept. of Environmental Health  
Boston University School of Public Health

Robin M. Whyatt, DrPH  
Professor Emeritus  
Department of Environmental Health Sciences  
Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

Lauren Zajac, MD, MPH, FAAP  
Pediatrician, Assistant Professor  
Department of Environmental Medicine and Public Health  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Marya Zlatnik, MD, MMS  
Professor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences  
University of California, San Francisco

R. Thomas Zoeller, Professor  
Biology Department  
University of Massachusetts Amherst

Ami R. Zota, ScD, MS  
Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health  
Milken Institute School of Public Health  
George Washington University

***Medical Associations***

*American Congress of Obstetricians & Gynecologists*  
*National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physician*  
*National Hispanic Medical Association*