

February XX, 2019

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chair
Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Subcommittee
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Subcommittee
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairs Blunt and DeLauro and Ranking Members Murray and Cole,

Thank you for your leadership of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (L-HHS) Appropriations Subcommittees and your commitment to public health. We, the undersigned organizations representing leading patient and professional stakeholders, write today to request the inclusion of at least \$250,000 for “sleep and sleep disorders” activities at CDC’s National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion within the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 L-HHS Appropriations Bill.

Establishing and maintaining a successful sleep and sleep disorders program at CDC is of notable national importance. Healthy sleep is connected to a variety of contemporary topics, including productivity, fatigue, and mental health issues. Moreover, the connection between disordered sleep and health challenges, such as obesity, and safety challenges, such as drowsy driving are well established. In terms of both public health benefit and stewardship of federal resources it would be a missed opportunity for Congress to forego directing CDC to coordinate a comprehensive sleep and sleep disorders program.

Until FY 2019, CDC had been providing modest support and coordination for the National Healthy Sleep Awareness Project (NHSAP). This was a productive initiative that leveraged limited resources and community engagement to advance timely surveillance, public awareness, and professional education activities. CDC ended NHSAP recently citing a lack of dedicated funding. Reinvigorating sleep activities at CDC for FY 2020 would allow for important new efforts that capitalize on the years of progress, data, and knowledge generated by NHSAP.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of this request. We welcome any opportunity to meet and discuss this recommendation further or otherwise provide additional information.

Sincerely,
American Academy of Sleep Medicine
American Sleep Apnea Association
American Thoracic Society
Circadian Sleep Disorders Network
Hypersomnia Foundation

KLS Foundation
Narcolepsy Network
Project Sleep
RLS Foundation
Sleep Research Society
Society for Research on Biological Rhythms
Society of Behavioral Sleep Medicine
Start School Later
Wake Up Narcolepsy