



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30329-4027

January 5, 2018

Mr. Donald P. Hoppert
Director, Government Relations
American Public Health Association
800 I Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Hoppert:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of more than 300 professional organizations regarding the annual budget process for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

As I have stated to CDC staff, partners, and the media, there are no banned words at CDC. We will continue to talk about all of our important public health programs and to use the best scientific evidence available to improve the health of all Americans. CDC also strongly encourages the use of outcome and evidence data in program evaluations and budget decisions.

CDC has a long-standing history of making public health decisions based on the best available science and data and for the benefit of all people—and we will continue to do so. As part of our commitment to provide for the common defense of the country against health threats, science is and will remain the foundation of our work. In an agency-wide message to CDC employees, I affirmed the agency's commitment to keep science as the foundation of the agency's work.

CDC used a Congressional Justification guidance resource, which is an internal, technical document distributed to budget staff in each of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) operating divisions, to help those participating in the budget formulation process. The HHS guidance provides general procedures for development of Congressional Justifications, and facilitates consistency across the budget formulation process. It also provides suggestions of terms to use, as well as overused words to be avoided.

Thank you for your letter and your interest in CDC's public health efforts. Please share this response with the organizations that cosigned your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda Fitzgerald".

Brenda Fitzgerald, MD
Director, CDC