March 10, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

We, the undersigned organizations, write to express our strong support for the mission and goals of the President’s Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition and request that a new Executive Director, President’s Council members, and Scientific Advisory Committee members be appointed as soon as possible.

Physical inactivity and its consequences have created a national health care crisis. Now more than ever, the President’s Council is needed to encourage all Americans to lead active, healthy lifestyles. According to recent statistics, more than 78 million U.S. adults and 12.5 million children and adolescents are obese. Obesity-related illness, including chronic disease, disability and death, is estimated to carry an annual cost of $190.2 billion. Projections estimate that by 2018, obesity will account for 21 percent of our nation’s total health care costs - $344 billion annually. Those who are obese have medical costs that are $1,429 more than those of normal weight on average.

Through the work of the President’s Council and others, there has been some success in reducing obesity in America. Between 2003 and 2012, obesity among children between 2 and 5 years of age has declined from 14% to 8% - a 43% decrease in just under a decade. Obesity rates in children 6 to 11 years old have decreased from 18.8% in 2003-2004 to 17.7% in 2011-2012.

As stated in its mission, the President’s Council “promotes programs and initiatives that motivate people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to lead active, healthy lives.” It is imperative that the President’s Council continue its work to increase America’s awareness of the benefits of regular physical activity, fitness and sports participation.

Sincerely,
Action for Healthy Kids (AFHK)
Advocates for Better Children's Diets
America Walks
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
American Academy of Podiatric Sports Medicine (AAPSM)
American College of Lifestyle Medicine
American College of Sports Medicine
American Council On Exercise
American Heart Association
American Institute for Cancer Research
American Kinesiotherapy Association
American Medical Society for Sports Medicine
American Orthopedic Society for Sports Medicine
American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine
American Physical Therapy Association (APTA)
Association for Applied Sport Psychology
Association for Corporate Health Risk Management
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Clinical Exercise Physiology Association
Collegiate Strength & Conditioning Coaches Association
Health Resources in Action
Healthy Weight Partnership
Intermountain Healthcare LiVe Well
International Association for Worksite Health Promotion
Lakeshore Foundation
Maryland State Advisory Council on Physical Fitness
Medical Fitness Association
MEND Foundation
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Athletic Trainers’ Association
National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity
National Collegiate Athletic Association
National Council of Youth Sports (NCYS)
National Council on Strength and Fitness
National Federations of State High School Associations (NFHS)
National Physical Activity Plan Alliance
National Recreation and Park Association
National Sporting Goods Association
National Strength and Conditioning Association
National Youth Sports Health & Safety Institute
NIRSA: Leaders in Collegiate Recreation
PeopleForBikes Coalition
PHIT America
Pop Warner Little Scholars
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Road Runners Club of America
Safe Routes to School National Partnership
SHAPE America
Special Olympics International
Sports & Fitness Industry Association
The Cooper Institute
Trust for America’s Health
United States Tennis Association
USA Cheer
Women’s Sports Foundation
YMCA of the USA
Yoga Alliance