July 20, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan  The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House  Minority Leader
H-232 Capitol  H-204 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515  Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi:

We, the undersigned organizations, write to express our support for the Personal Health Investment Today (PHIT) Act currently being considered within Health Savings Account (HSA) reform legislation.

In America today, nearly one-third of its citizens are classified as being obese. This diagnosis brings with it an increased likelihood of developing life-threatening diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and some forms of cancer. Studies by the Department of Health and Human Services indicate that 68 percent of adults and 16.9 percent of children of the United States are obese or overweight and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicate that poor diet and physical inactivity cause over 400,000 deaths each year.

In addition, with the U.S. healthcare system facing rising costs, we need solutions that reduce spending to help keep the system on a more sustainable path. The easiest way to lower healthcare costs is to invest in prevention and to put public policy measures in place that promote sustainable participation in fitness, health and wellness activities.

The PHIT Act would allow Americans to use their HSAs to pay for healthy lifestyle activities like membership at a fitness facility, participation or instruction in a program of physical exercise or physical activity, and safety equipment used in a program (including a self-directed program) of physical exercise or physical activity.

While there is language in the bill that limits PHIT’s impact on activity which needs to be addressed, we believe that it is important to keep the momentum going. We encourage Congress to pursue opportunities to modify the PHIT language during the legislative process and pass the PHIT Act in the House.

The PHIT Act provides Americans with the ability to invest in active, healthy activities that promote improved health and we support its passage in the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,
Academy of Brain Health Performance
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Active Wellness
Advocates for Better Children's Diets
America Walks
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American College of Lifestyle Medicine
American College of Preventive 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 Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine
American Physical Therapy Association
American Society of Landscape Architects
Aquatic Therapy and Rehabilitation Institute
Association of Corporate Health Risk Management
Athletic Business
Black Iron Strength
Boys and Girls Clubs of America
Brunswick Club Industry
Collegiate and Professional Sports Dietitians Association
Cooper Healthcare Strategies
Fitness Law Academy
Health Resources in Action, Inc.
Healthy Weight Partnership Inc.
International Association for Worksite Health Promotion
International Health, Racquet & Sportsclub Association
Life Fitness
Lifestyle Medicine Education Collaborative
Medical Fitness Association
MicroFit
MidTown Health
National Association for Health and Fitness Directors
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Athletic Trainers Association
National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity
National Council for Youth Sports
National Council on Strength and Fitness
National Recreation and Park Association
National Sporting Goods Association
National Strength and Conditioning Association
National Swimming Pool Foundation
National Youth Sports Health & Safety Institute
NIKE, Inc.
NIRSA: Leaders in Collegiate Recreation
Ohlson Lavoie Collaborative
Outdoor Industry Association
Pop Warner
Sports and Fitness Industry Association
The Collegiate and Professional Sports Dietitians Association
The Cooper Institute
The League of American Bicyclists
US Lacrosse
USA Baseball
Vector Wellness
Wellcoaches Corporation
Welld Health
Women in Fitness Association

cc: Chairman Kevin Brady
    Ranking Member Richard Neal