

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC) COALITION
C/o American Public Health Association (202) 777-2514 cdccoalition.org

November 16, 2015

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Blunt and Cole and Ranking Members Murray and DeLauro:

The undersigned members of the CDC Coalition and other supporting organizations urge you to provide the highest possible funding level for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's programs as you finalize FY 2016 spending legislation. Earlier this year, the coalition recommended a funding level of \$7.8 billion for CDC in FY 2016.

We are pleased that Congress and the administration were able to come together to enact the Bipartisan Budget Act that will provide much needed additional resources for nondefense discretionary programs in FY 2016. We strongly urge you to use these additional dollars to adequately fund all of the activities and programs supported by CDC that are essential to protecting the health of the American people. As an agency, CDC has been woefully underfunded and the agency's overall program level funding remains lower than 2010 levels, even without adjusting for inflation. We also ask you to work to restore the proposed cuts to CDC programs in the House and Senate FY 2016 Labor-HHS-Education spending bills drafted prior to the passage of the budget deal. Several programs including the Partnerships to Improve Community Health, Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health, tobacco control, several important programs within the National Center for Environmental Health and sexually transmitted infection prevention grants were eliminated or severely cut in at least one of the proposals. Finally, we ask you to reject the inclusion of any ideological policy riders that would hamper the ability of the agency to protect the public from the many health threats we face as a nation.

The CDC Coalition is a nonpartisan coalition of organizations committed to strengthening the nation's public health infrastructure and prevention programs. Our mission is to ensure that health promotion and disease prevention are given top priority in federal funding, to support a funding level for CDC that enables it to carry out its prevention mission and to assure an adequate translation of new research into effective state and local programs. Coalition member groups represent millions of public health workers, researchers, clinicians, educators, and citizens served by CDC programs.

CDC is faced with unprecedented challenges and responsibilities ranging from emergency preparedness, chronic disease prevention, to combating the tobacco, opioid and obesity epidemics. CDC funds programs for injury control and violence prevention; global health security; health promotion in schools and workplaces; the prevention of diabetes, heart disease, stroke, cancer, lung disease and other chronic diseases; nutrition and physical activity; immunization; environmental health; oral health; preventing infant mortality and birth defects; preventing antimicrobial resistance; preventing prescription drug overdose and public health research and health statistics. It is notable that more than 70 percent of CDC's budget supports public health and prevention activities by state and local health organizations and agencies, national public health partners and academic institutions.

CDC serves as the command center for the nation's public health defense system against emerging and reemerging infectious diseases. From aiding in the prevention and control of Ebola in West Africa and detecting and responding to cases in the U.S., to monitoring and investigating the ongoing multi-state measles outbreak to pandemic flu preparedness, CDC is the nation's – and the world's – expert resource and response center, coordinating communications and action and serving as the laboratory reference center. States, communities and the international community rely on CDC for accurate information and direction in a crisis or outbreak.

In addition to ensuring a strong public health infrastructure and protecting Americans from public health threats and emergencies, CDC programs are crucial to reducing health care costs and improving health. Despite the progress CDC has made to meet these needs, the agency's programs have been woefully underfunded to confront the myriad public health issues facing the nation. We urge you to invest in all of CDC's programs as you finalize your work on FY 2016 spending legislation.

Sincerely,

AcademyHealth
Adult Congenital Heart Association
Allergy & Asthma Network
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Dental Research
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association on Health and Disability
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Dental Association
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society of Hematology
American Thoracic Society
American Thrombosis and Hemostasis Network
Arizona Public Health Association

Arkansas Public Health Association
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Association of Women's Health Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, New England Chapter
Brockton Interfaith Community, Inc. (MA)
California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals
California Public Health Association-North
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Children's Environmental Health Network
Coalition for Health Funding
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc., (COA)
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Cooley's Anemia Foundation
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America
Delaware Academy of Medicine/Delaware Public Health Association
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Epilepsy Foundation
Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey
Equity Realty Plus (MA)
Every Child By Two - Carter/Bumpers Champions for Immunization
Friends of NCHS
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
Healthy Teen Network
HIV Medicine Association
Idaho Public Health Association
Illinois Alcohol and Drug Dependence Association
Illinois Public Health Association
Infectious Diseases Society of America
International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium
Interstitial Cystitis Association
Iowa Public Health Association
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
Lakeshore Foundation
Louisiana Public Health Association
March of Dimes
Maryland Public Health Association
Messiah Baptist Church (MA)
Michigan Public Health Association
Minnesota Public Health Association
NAPHSIS: National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors
National Association of County and City Health Officials

National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials
National Birth Defects Prevention Study
National Black Nurses Association
National Blood Clot Alliance
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association
National Hemophilia Foundation
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Recreation and Park Association
National Safety Council
Nevada Public Health Association
New Hampshire Public Health Association
New Mexico Public Health Association
North Carolina Public Health Association
North Dakota Public Health Association
Ohio Public Health Association
Old Colony Elder Services, Inc. (MA)
Oregon Public Health Association
Public Health Association of Nebraska
Public Health Institute
Safe States Alliance
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Public Health Education
Southern California Public Health Association
Spina Bifida Association
Stoughton Public Schools (MA)
Tennessee Public Health Associations
Texas Public Health Association
The AIDS Institute
The Arc
The Family Resource Network
The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
Tourette Association of America
Trust for America's Health
Vermont Public Health Association
Visiting Dental Hygienist, LLC
Washington State Public Health Association
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for women with Heart Disease
Wyoming Public Health Association
YMCA of the USA

Cc: The Honorable Paul Ryan
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Harry Reid
House Appropriations Committee
Senate Appropriations Committee