

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 26, 2021

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

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

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As you begin work on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 appropriations process, we write to respectfully request that you provide at least \$10 billion for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) programs, an increase of \$2.1 billion over FY2021. These science-based, data-driven activities are critical to protecting the health of all of our communities and deserve greater sustained support to address the many ongoing public health challenges we face.

CDC is the backbone of the United States public health system, with a mission to “work 24/7 to protect the safety, health, and security of America from threats here and around the world.”¹ Through CDC, resources reach local, state, territorial, and tribal public health agencies and support their life-saving work in communities across our nation. Establishing and maintaining solid public health systems allows health departments to prevent, protect, respond, and recover from events and reduce human and financial tolls. While recent emergency funding has supported efforts to defeat COVID-19, we must provide stable, sufficient public health preparedness funding to allow our state and local health departments to maintain a standing set of core capabilities, so they are ready when needed, regardless of the next challenge or threat.

The investment we request would help support a variety of public health imperatives, such as:

- Defending against infectious disease. Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, CDC has monitored and studied the SARS-CoV-2 virus worldwide and helped communities respond, including by deploying staff locally, investigating outbreaks and publishing their findings, sequencing variants, and providing public health recommendations guidance for clinicians, public health departments and the public. CDC also works to protect people from other viruses like influenza, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), measles, rabies, and Ebola; bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics like methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and C. difficile; and countless other infectious diseases. These efforts include using advanced molecular detection to track outbreaks, helping health departments

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/about/24-7/index.html>

effectively use surveillance data, funding school-based health education programs, and investing in disease intervention specialists.

- Preventing chronic disease. Chronic diseases represent seven of the 10 leading causes of death,² and account for 90 percent of the nation's \$3.8 trillion in annual health care costs.^{3,4} Many of these diseases can be prevented by eating well; being physically active; avoiding tobacco, excessive drinking, and injury; and getting regular health screenings. CDC collects data on chronic diseases and their risk factors to inform prevention and control, studies interventions and supports communities in implementing them, and provides resources to educate communities on how to reduce risk factors. This work is rooted in addressing social determinants of health, which contribute to perpetual racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities. CDC's Tips from Former Smokers campaign has helped one million people quit smoking, over 400,000 people have participated in the National Diabetes Prevention Program, and the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program has served more than 5.6 million women.⁵ CDC grants also help states increase the number of students who consume nutritious foods, design communities to make physical activity safer and more convenient, and expand and sustain education programs.
- Protecting against environmental hazards. CDC prevents illness and death related to environmental hazards, researches the effects of the environment on health, surveils environment-related health problems, and prepares and responds to environmental emergencies. Recent accomplishments include confirming higher per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) exposures in communities near military bases, improving our understanding of potential links between pesticide exposures and children's behavior, and identifying contaminants in fish from the Great Lakes. Funding from CDC's National Center for Environmental Health supports state and local asthma control plans, childhood lead poisoning prevention activities, environmental health tracking, safe water programs, and more. CDC's environmental health efforts also span cruise ship sanitation, foodborne illness, radiation, mold, climate adaptation, natural disasters and severe weather, chemical weapons elimination, and air quality.
- Preventing injuries and violence. CDC researches, employs, and funds strategies to prevent injuries, the leading cause of death for individuals between one and 45 years old. For example, the Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancement and Leadership Through Alliances Impact program funds state coalitions and local communities to reduce intimate partner violence. CDC also has played a leading role in addressing the opioid and drug overdose epidemics through research, monitoring, and funding and support for state and local response and prevention activities, such as the Drug-Free Communities program which supports community coalitions that reduce youth substance use. Youth Violence Prevention Centers have demonstrated success through innovative interventions such as mowing and planting community gardens on vacant properties, cultivating positive racial identity, and supporting parents in disadvantaged neighborhoods. CDC also works to

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/leading-causes-of-death.htm>

³ Rand Corporation, https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/tools/TL200/TL221/RAND_TL221.pdf

⁴ Health Affairs, <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.2020.02022>

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/programs-impact/impacts.htm>

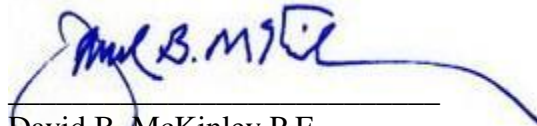
prevent dozens of other injuries such as suicide, child abuse and neglect, traumatic brain injury, older adult falls, burns, drowning, and motor vehicle accidents.

These represent just a small sample of the countless CDC programs that safeguard and improve our constituents' lives and provide critical resources to support the essential work of our state, territorial, local and tribal public health agencies. Members of Congress have traditionally supported a wide variety of programs within CDC, each with its own merits, but the agency remains woefully underfunded. While we all recognize that the fiscal climate presents challenges, the cost of unmitigated disease is far greater than that of investments in prevention and response. Again, we urge you to provide at least \$10 billion for CDC in FY2022 – a level also supported by nearly 200 organizations representing of public health workers, researchers, clinicians, educators, and patients. Now, more than ever, it is critical to have a strong and modern national public health surveillance system that detects and facilitates immediate response to, and containment of, emerging health threats. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley P.E.
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



John Katko
Member of Congress

/s/
Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

/s/
Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

/s/
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

/s/
Ted Deutch
Member of Congress

/s/
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

/s/
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

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William R. Keating
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Cheri Bustos
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Jenniffer González-Colón
Member of Congress

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Danny K. Davis
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Sean Casten
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Eddie Bernice Johnson
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Kathy Castor
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Sara Jacobs
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Elissa Slotkin
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Lizzie Fletcher
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Ted W. Lieu
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Adam Smith
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Marilyn Strickland
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Ami Bera, M.D.
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Bill Pascrell, Jr.
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Zoe Lofgren
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Jim Himes
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Carolyn Bourdeaux
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Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress