

CDC Coalition

November 17, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro, Chairman Leahy, Ranking Member Granger and Vice Chairman Shelby:

The undersigned XXX members of the CDC Coalition and other supporting state and national organizations urge you to include at least the House-passed level of **\$10.5 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s programs in any final FY 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill**. We truly appreciate your support for CDC and for the significant increases provided in both the House and Senate versions of the FY 2022 appropriations bill. Strong funding for CDC is critical to supporting all of CDC’s activities and programs, which are essential to protect the health of our communities. Due to years of underfunding, many CDC programs have not received the funding that is needed to address the many health challenges we face as a nation, resulting in many of CDC’s most effective prevention programs not reaching all states. We also believe that it is critical for Congress to quickly finalize the FY 2022 appropriations process to avoid lengthy continuing resolutions that bring uncertainty and make it more difficult for the agency and its grantees to protect the public’s health.

The CDC Coalition is a nonpartisan coalition of organizations committed to strengthening our 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 ensure an adequate translation of new research into effective state and local programs. Coalition member groups represent millions of public health workers, researchers, clinicians, educators, patients and individuals and families served by CDC programs.

CDC serves as the command center for the nation’s public health defense system against emerging and reemerging infectious diseases as well as man-made and natural disasters. From playing a leading role in aiding in the surveillance, detection and mitigation of the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S. and globally, to playing a lead role in the control of Ebola in West Africa and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to monitoring, investigating and helping to control the recent measles outbreaks in the U.S., 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 international partners

rely on CDC accurate information, direction and resources to ensure they continue to be prepared for and able to respond to and recover from a crisis or outbreak. States, communities and international partners rely on CDC for accurate information, direction and resources to ensure they continue to be prepared for and able to respond to and recover from a crisis or outbreak.

While CDC is playing a leading role in protecting the public's health from COVID-19, it is faced with many other unprecedented challenges and responsibilities ranging from chronic disease prevention to combating the opioid, tobacco, e-cigarette and obesity epidemics to emergency preparedness. CDC funds programs for injury control; research into gun 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; tobacco prevention and control; nutrition and physical activity; immunizations; HIV, STI and hepatitis prevention; prevention of vector-borne diseases; environmental health, including the prevention of childhood lead poisoning and protecting the public from the health impacts of climate change; oral health; reducing health disparities; preventing infant mortality and birth defects; sickle cell disease data collection; preventing antimicrobial resistance; preventing prescription drug overdose; improving the health and quality of life of individuals with disabilities; Alzheimer's disease prevention and awareness; vision and eye health and public health research and health statistics. It is notable that more than 70% of CDC's budget supports public health and prevention activities through state and local health organizations and agencies, national public health partners and academic institutions.

In addition to ensuring a strong public health infrastructure and protecting our communities 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. **We urge you to include at least \$10.5 billion for CDC's programs in any final FY 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill.**

Please contact Don Hoppert at donald.hoppert@apha.org or 202-777-2514 with any questions regarding our request.

Sincerely,

American Heart Association
American Public Health Association
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Trust for America's Health

Cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable Charles Schumer
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable Tom Cole