

CDC Coalition

December XX, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs Granger and Murray, Ranking Member DeLauro and Vice Chair Collins:

The undersigned XXX members of the CDC Coalition and other supporting state, national and academic organizations urge you to work in a bipartisan manner to quickly finalize the FY 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill with the highest possible level of funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Earlier this year, our coalition wrote to the leaders of the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations subcommittees urging them to provide at least \$11.581 billion for CDC in FY 2024. While we understand that the debt ceiling agreement from earlier this year has limited the resources available to the Appropriations Committees since our original request, we continue to urge you to prioritize CDC funding and to oppose the inclusion of any cuts or partisan policy riders related to any of the agency's programs. It is essential that Congress fully finalize the FY 2024 process and avoid the extremely damaging sequestration cuts that would undermine nondefense discretionary programs, including those at CDC. Due to years of underfunding, many CDC programs have not received the resources that are 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 and communities.

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, academic institutions, health policy advocates, 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 monitoring and investigating the mpox outbreak and other disease outbreaks in the U.S. and internationally, to pandemic flu preparedness, CDC is the nation's – and a global – expert resource and response center, coordinating communications and

action and serving as the laboratory reference center. States, communities and international partners rely on CDC for accurate information, direction and resources to ensure they can prepare, respond and recover from a crisis or disease outbreak.

CDC is also faced with other unprecedented challenges and responsibilities including chronic disease prevention. As the pandemic has demonstrated, chronic diseases and infectious diseases are inextricably linked. Good underlying health is a critical component to preventing severe infection and death from communicable diseases.

CDC plays a leading role in combating the opioid, tobacco, e-cigarette and obesity epidemics as well as emergency preparedness. CDC funds programs for strengthening public health infrastructure at all levels; strengthening and expanding the public health workforce; injury prevention; research into gun violence prevention; suicide 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 climate adaptation strategies; oral health; reducing health disparities; preventing maternal and 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, public health research and health statistics and harmonizing clinical laboratory test results. 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 decreasing health disparities and improving health equity. Despite the progress CDC has made to meet these needs, the agency's programs remain woefully underfunded. **We urge you to prioritize CDC funding and to reject any cuts or damaging policy riders related to the agency's programs in any final FY 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill.**

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

Sincerely,

American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Public Health Association
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
National Association of County and City Health Officials
Trust for America's Health

Cc: The Honorable Mike Johnson
The Honorable Hakim Jeffries

The Honorable Charles Schumer
The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Robert Aderholt
The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito