

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

March 1, 2016

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 \$7.8 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's programs in the FY 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. We are disappointed that President Obama's FY 2017 budget request proposes to cut CDC's program level by \$194 million below the FY 2016 level. While the president's proposal provides increased funding for some important initiatives, other important programs would be level funded, cut or completely eliminated. We believe that Congress should prioritize funding for all of the activities and programs supported by CDC that are essential to protect the health of the American people.

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 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 serves as the command center for the nation's public health defense system against emerging and reemerging infectious diseases. From aiding in the surveillance, detection and prevention of the Zika virus to playing a lead role in the control of Ebola in West Africa and detecting and responding to cases in the U.S., to monitoring and investigating last year's 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.

CDC is faced with unprecedented challenges and responsibilities ranging from emergency preparedness, chronic disease prevention, to combating the tobacco 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, including the prevention of childhood lead poisoning; oral health; reducing health disparities; 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.

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 support a funding level of \$7.8 billion for CDC programs in FY 2017.

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

Sincerely,

Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine & Health
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
AcademyHealth
Advocates for Better Children's Diets
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Dental Research
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 Clinical Pharmacy
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Council on Exercise
American Dental Hygienists' Association
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Optometric Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Thoracic Society
Arthritis Foundation
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
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
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Calhoun County Office of Senior Services
California Consortium of Addiction Programs & Professionals
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Children's Environmental Health Network
Coalition for Health Funding
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Friends of NCHS
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
Hawaii Public Health Association
Healthy Teen Network
Hispanic Health Initiatives, Inc.
HIV Medicine Association
Idaho Public Health Association
Illinois Alcohol & Drug Dependence Association
Infectious Diseases Society of America
International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC)
Iowa Public Health Association
Lakeshore Foundation
Maine Public Health Association
March of Dimes
Minnesota Public Health Association
Mississippi Public Health Association
Missouri Public Health Association
NAPHSIS
NASTAD (National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors)
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD)
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Center for Healthy Housing
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Environmental Health Association
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Recreation and Park Association
National Safety Council
National Violence Prevention Network
Nevada Public Health Association
New Hampshire Public Health Association
New Jersey Public Health Association
North Carolina Public Health Association
North Dakota Public Health Association
Ohio Public Health Association
Prevent Blindness
Prevention Institute
Public Health Association of Nebraska
Public Health Institute
Research!America

Safe Kids Worldwide
Safe States Alliance
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)
Society for Public Health Education
The AIDS Institute
The Arc
The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
Tourette Association of America
Trust for America's Health
Vermont Public Health Association
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease
YMCA of the USA

Cc: House Appropriations Committee
Senate Appropriations Committee