

# CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC) COALITION

C/o American Public Health Association (202) 777-2514 www.cdccoalition.org

March 21, 2012

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, HHS and Education  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, HHS and Education  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Denny Rehberg  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, HHS and Education  
2358 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, HHS and Education  
2358 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Harkin and Rehberg and Ranking Members Shelby and DeLauro:

The undersigned members of the CDC Coalition urge you to provide at least **\$7.8 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) programs** in the FY 2013 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. Our request includes funding from budget authority, the Prevention and Public Health Fund, the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund and PHS Evaluation transfers. We are disappointed with the president's FY 2013 budget proposal that would **reduce CDC's budget authority by \$664 million**, for a total reduction of **\$1.4 billion since FY 2010**. At the same time, the administration and Congress increasingly rely on the Prevention and Public Health Fund and funding transfers from other agencies to backfill the cuts to CDC's budget authority. We strongly believe that Congress should prioritize funding for 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 the prevention of disease, injury and disability are given top priority in federal funding. We 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 organizations represent millions of public health workers, researchers, clinicians, educators, and citizens served by CDC programs.

CDC continues to be faced with unprecedented challenges and responsibilities, ranging from emergency preparedness, chronic and infectious disease prevention, eliminating health disparities, to combating the tobacco and obesity epidemics. In addition, CDC funds programs in injury control and violence prevention; health promotion efforts in schools and workplaces; governmental and community initiatives to prevent diabetes, heart disease, stroke, cancer, lung disease, arthritis and other chronic diseases; improvements in nutrition and immunization; programs to monitor and combat environmental effects on health; interventions to improve oral health; efforts to prevent infant mortality and birth defects; strategies to prevent antimicrobial resistance and infectious diseases; prevention of mental health conditions; public health research and data collection and analysis on a host of vital statistics and other health indicators. It is notable that more than 70

percent of CDC's budget supports state and local health organizations and academic institutions, many of which continue to struggle to meet growing needs with fewer resources.

CDC serves as the command center for our nation's public health defense system against emerging and reemerging infectious diseases. From pandemic flu preparedness and prevention activities to West Nile, smallpox and SARS detection, 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 and communities 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 the public's 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 country. **We urge you to support, at a minimum, a funding level of \$7.8 billion for CDC programs in FY 2013.**

Sincerely,

AcademyHealth  
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
AIDS United  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Association of Poison Control Centers  
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 Dental Hygienists' Association  
American Heart Association  
American Lung Association  
American Medical Student Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Society for Clinical Pathology  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
American Thoracic Society  
Arthritis Foundation  
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research  
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology  
Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs  
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs  
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools  
Association of Public Health Laboratories  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Children's Environmental Health Network  
Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning

Coalition for Health Funding  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists  
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation  
Digestive Disease National Coalition  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Every Child By Two  
HIV Medicine Association  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
Interstitial Cystitis Association  
March of Dimes  
Mental Health America  
Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation  
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors  
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of Local Boards of Health  
National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems  
National Center for Healthy Housing  
National Coalition of STD Directors  
National Kidney Foundation  
Public Health Institute  
Research!America  
Scleroderma Foundation  
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States  
Sleep Research Society  
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America  
Strategic Applications International  
The AIDS Institute  
The Campaign for Public Health Foundation  
Trust for America's Health  
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease  
YMCA of the USA

Cc: House Appropriations Committee  
Senate Appropriations Committee