March 27, 2014

The undersigned members of the CDC Coalition urge you to provide $7.8 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s programs in the FY 2015 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. Unfortunately, President Obama’s FY 2015 budget request for CDC represents a nearly $243 million reduction when compared with FY 2014 and CDC’s budget authority in the president’s proposal is lower than FY 2003 levels. While we appreciate some of the targeted increases in the president’s budget, other important CDC programs would face level funding or significant reductions. 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 is faced with unprecedented challenges and responsibilities ranging from emergency preparedness, chronic disease prevention, to combating the tobacco and obesity epidemics. CDC funds programs in injury control and violence prevention; health promotion in schools and workplaces; governmental and community initiatives to prevent diabetes, heart disease, stroke, cancer, lung disease and other chronic diseases; improvements in nutrition and immunization; programs to monitor and protect against environmental threats; improving oral health; preventing infant mortality and birth defects; initiatives to improve the health and wellbeing of persons with
disabilities; preventing antimicrobial resistance and infectious diseases; 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.

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 system 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 challenges, the agency has been woefully underfunded to confront the myriad public health issues facing the country and keeping current austerity measures in place poses a serious threat to the viability of critical CDC programs. We urge you to support all of CDC’s programs and provide a funding level of $7.8 billion in FY 2015.

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

Sincerely,

AcademyHealth
AIDS United
American Society for Clinical Pathology
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 Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Dental Association
American Dental Hygienists' Association
American Diabetes Association
American Epilepsy Society
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Thoracic Society
American Trauma Society
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs
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
Campaign for Public Health Foundation
C-Change
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Children's Environmental Health Network
Coalition for Health Funding
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc. (COA)
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Epilepsy Foundation
Friends of NCHS
Futures Without Violence
GBS/CIDP Foundation International
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
Healthy Teen Network
HIV Medicine Association
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Interstitial Cystitis Association
March of Dimes
Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation
NAPHSIS
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors
National Alopecia Areata Foundation
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD)
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Black Nurses Association
National Center for Healthy Housing
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Recreation and Park Association
National Violence Prevention Network
Prevent Blindness
Public Health Institute
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Research!America
Safe States Alliance
Scleroderma Foundation
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)
Sleep Research Society
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
Society for Public Health Education
The AIDS Institute
The Arc
The Marfan 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