March 23, 2015

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 urge you to provide $7.8 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s programs in the FY 2016 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. We are pleased President Obama’s FY 2016 budget request would increase CDC’s program level by $141 million over FY 2015. While this additional funding provides some resources for new and important initiatives and increased funding for some programs, other important programs would be cut or are completely eliminated under the president’s request. 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 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; oral health; 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.
CDC serves as the command center for the nation’s public health defense system against emerging and reemerging infectious diseases. From aiding in the prevention and control of Ebola in West Africa and detecting and responding to cases in the U.S., to monitoring and investigating the ongoing 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.

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 2016.**

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

Sincerely,

AcademyHealth
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
AIDS United
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 Cardiology
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American School Health Association
American Sexual Health Association
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Thoracic Society
American Trauma Society
Arthritis Foundation
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
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
Emergency Nurses Association
Epilepsy Foundation
Friends For Life
Friends of NCHS
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
HealthHIV
Healthy Teen Network
HIV Medicine Association
HIV Prevention Justice Alliance
IC&RC
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Lakeshore Foundation
March of Dimes
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors
National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS)
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of State EMS Officials
National Black Nurses Association
National Center for Healthy Housing
National Coalition for LGBT Health
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Recreation and Park Association
National Violence Prevention Network
Prevent Blindness
Public Health Institute
Research!America
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
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