

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC) COALITION

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

March 29, 2013

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

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

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, HHS and Education
2358B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairmen Harkin and Kingston and Ranking Members Moran 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 2014 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. We are deeply disappointed with the failure to avert the sequester which will cut roughly \$300 million from CDC's FY 2013 funding and we urge you to work to reverse cuts. These cuts come on top of the \$740 million reduction to CDC's budget authority in FY 2011. We 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 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 continues to be faced with unprecedented challenges and responsibilities, ranging from emergency preparedness, chronic 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 protect the public from exposures to environmental hazards and the health impacts of climate change; interventions to improve oral health; efforts to prevent infant mortality and birth defects; initiatives to improve the health and wellbeing of persons with disabilities; strategies to prevent antimicrobial resistance and infectious diseases; mental illness prevention; 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, nonprofit 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 a funding level of \$7.8 billion for CDC programs in FY 2014.**

Sincerely,

AIDS United
AcademyHealth
American Academy of Pediatrics
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 Diabetes 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 Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
Arthritis Foundation
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Schools of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Biotest Pharmaceuticals
C-Change
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Children's Environmental Health Network
Coalition for Health Funding
Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning
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 & Colitis Foundation of America
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Emergency Nurses Association
Epilepsy Foundation
Fight Colorectal Cancer
Friends of NCHS
Futures Without Violence
GBS/CIDP Foundation International
Healthy Teen Network
Hepatitis Foundation International
HIV Medicine Association
Infectious Diseases Society of America
International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders
Interstitial Cystitis Association
Interstitial Cystitis Association
Joint Advocacy Coalition of ACRT, APOR, CRF, and SCTS
March of Dimes
Mental Health America
Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors
National Alopecia Areata Foundation
National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Association of County & City Health Officials
National Black Nurses Association
National Center for Healthy Housing
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Kidney Foundation
National Marfan Foundation
National Violence Prevention Network
Prevent Blindness America
Public Health Institute
Research!America
Safe States Alliance
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)
Sleep Research Society
Society for Public Health Education
The AIDS Institute
The Arc
The Campaign for Public Health Foundation
The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
Trust for America's Health
U.S. Hereditary Angioedema Association
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease
YMCA of the USA

Cc: House Appropriations Committee
Senate Appropriations Committee