

Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 24, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Senate Appropriations Committee
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Senate Appropriations Committee
135 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murray and Ranking Member Blunt:

Thank you for your strong commitment to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and to the nation's public health security, especially over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. As you and your colleagues consider the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we respectfully request you provide, in accordance with President Biden's FY22 budget request, a top-line funding level of \$10 billion for the CDC. This level of funding would help ensure their highly trained professionals have the resources they need to keep Americans safe, be prepared to mitigate and prevent illness, and to protect Americans both now and in the future. This top-line request is the largest annual budget authority increase for the CDC in 20 years and is essential in restoring its capacity as the world's preeminent public health agency. As you know, the CDC requires necessary and sufficient resources to carry out its mission as our nation's primary health protection agency.

Within the \$10 billion FY22 request, we ask that you support, at minimum, the following FY22 funding levels for these specific CDC programs over the FY2021 enacted levels:

- ***\$10 billion in total budget authority for the CDC, including \$8.7 billion in discretionary spending***
Most importantly, we ask that you include budget increases targeting improvements to readiness for future public health crises. Building on the investments in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, the CDC will use this additional funding to support core public health capacity improvements in states and territories, modernize public health data collection nationwide, train new epidemiologists and other public health experts, and build international capacity to detect, prepare for, and respond to emerging global threats.
- ***Additional \$100 million for the CDC's Public Health Data Modernization initiative and focused funding for CDC public health data collection systems***
Specifically, we are requesting the committee's support for increasing the CDC's Public Health Data Modernization initiative above the FY21 level. This investment is imperative to bolster enhancements to the CDC's public health surveillance systems. This initiative will improve both the quality and timeliness of data collection from state and local health departments, as well as improve the CDC's own internal capacity to support advanced

analytical tools and better collect data during future public health crises. Significant investment in data modernization is desperately needed to bring the CDC's public health surveillance capabilities into the 21st century. Support for modernization efforts will help the CDC engage better with public health organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector to accelerate progress in public health data modernization across the country. The success of this program will help the public health community see enhanced predictive analytics that are oriented towards detecting threats prior to their emergence as full-blown health crises.

- ***Additional \$150 million for CDC's Global Health Security (GHS)***

We also request that the committee provide increased funding for CDC's GHS program in FY2022. It is critical to invest in and strengthen national and global readiness for the next public health crisis. While Congress and the Administration work aggressively to respond to the current COVID-19 pandemic, we ask that you commit to rebuilding and expanding defenses to prevent, detect, and respond to emerging and future biological threats. The additional funding would also enhance the CDC's ability to deploy experts internationally and build international capacity to detect and respond to emerging global biological threats. As we have seen with the COVID-19 pandemic, there are inevitable emerging disease threats across the globe. The CDC needs sustainable funding that protects Americans from global health threats and safeguards against future epidemics. This funding is critical for the CDC to collaborate and support country-wide response efforts to confront the most challenging health epidemics, as seen during COVID-19.

- ***Additional \$150 million for CDC's Social Determinants of Health Program***

We ask for an increase funding level for the CDC's Social Determinants of Health program in FY22 to support all states and territories in improving health equity and data collection for racial and ethnic populations. These programs work across sectors such as housing, education, and transportation and in partnerships with communities to achieve greater health equity.

- ***\$670 million within Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the CDC to help aggressively reduce new HIV cases***

To help accelerate and strengthen efforts to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the U.S., we encourage you to commit to ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic by including more funding to HHS and the CDC to help aggressively reduce new HIV cases while increasing access to treatment, expanding the use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (also known as PrEP), and ensuring equitable access to services and supports.

- ***Increased funding for maternal health, disaster preparedness and planning, and opioid crisis programs***

Lastly, we also want to highlight other important CDC programs of interest. We ask that you help end the high rate of maternal and minority disparities in pregnancy outcomes and request robust funding in FY22 for CDC's maternal and infant health programs. Increased funding will help reduce maternal mortality and morbidity rates nationwide. We also ask that you support CDC's Climate and Health program to invest in climate resilience and disaster planning to ensure that the Nation is rebuilding smarter and safer

for the future. We also appreciate your continued support for CDC programs dedicated to the nation's opioid crisis.

There are countless CDC programs beyond these mentioned that safeguard and improve our constituents' lives and provide critical resources to support the essential work of our state, territorial, local and tribal public health agencies. While we all recognize that the fiscal climate presents challenges, the cost of unmitigated disease is far greater than that of investments in prevention and response. Again, we urge you to provide at least \$10 billion for the CDC in FY2022 – a level also supported by nearly 200 organizations representing of public health workers, researchers, clinicians, educators, and patients. Now, more than ever, it is critical to have a strong and modern national public health surveillance system that detects and facilitates immediate response to, and containment of, emerging health threats. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

We appreciate your strong support for the CDC in past years and look forward to working with you to increase funding for critical investments in public health within the context of a responsible federal budget. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Reverend Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator