



May 13, 2022

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 2023 (FY23) Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we respectfully request you fully fund the President's budget request of \$10.675 billion for the CDC. This will help ensure their highly trained professionals have the resources they need to advance cutting edge research and programs that keep Americans healthy and prepared.

This top-line request is designed to address the most serious public health challenges we currently face, revitalize our fragile public health system and alleviate the human and economic costs we have faced during the pandemic. Fully funding this request will restore CDC's capacity as the world's preeminent public health agency.

Within the \$10.675 billion FY23 request, we ask that you support, at minimum, the following FY23 funding levels for these CDC programs:

- ***\$600 million for Public Health Infrastructure and Capacity***
Building on the investments of the various COVID-19 supplemental packages passed by Congress, 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. These investments would be used to help address racial and ethnic health disparities, defeat diseases and epidemics such as HIV/AIDS and the Cancer Moonshot Initiative.
- ***\$353 million for Global Public Health Protection***
This funding is critical to rebuilding and expanding our defenses to prevent, detect, and respond to emerging and future health threats. It will also allow CDC to enhance its ability to rapidly deploy scientists and public health experts and build international capacity to detect and respond to emerging global public health threats.

- \$200 million for the CDC's Public Health Data Modernization***
 This investment is imperative to bolster enhancements to the CDC's public health surveillance systems and will improve both the quality and timeliness of data collection from state and local health departments, as well as improve 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 CDC's public health surveillance capabilities into the 21st century. The success of this program will help the public health community utilize enhanced predictive analytics. These analytics will be oriented towards detecting threats earlier.
- \$50 million for CDC's new Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics***
 Established as the first government-wide public health forecasting center, this would enable the CDC to advance the U.S. government's ability to predict and model emerging health threats, thus mitigating future impacts including negative economic and social effects. This new Center will build on COVID-19 supplemental support and focus on these key functions: 1) predict public health concerns through modeling and forecasting, 2) connect information through data sharing and integration, and 3) inform decision makers of forecasts.
- \$251 million to address racial, ethnic, socioeconomic class, other public health disparities***
 \$150 million to address racial and ethnic health disparities including \$101 million for maternal and infant health programs at CDC. Increased funding will help reduce maternal mortality and morbidity rates nationwide while also working to address disparities that cut across sectors such as housing, education, and transportation to achieve greater health equity.

In addition to funding these public health programs, there is critical mandatory funding necessary to keep the CDC as the world's premier public health agency.

- \$28 billion for pandemic preparedness***
 This funding over five years for CDC will help advance the Administration's vision for pandemic preparedness. These investments will provide a bridge from the COVID- 19 response to a long-term and sustainable approach to protecting Americans from pandemic and ongoing public health threats.
- \$2,087,500,000 for the Vaccines for Adults Program***
 This funding will establish the proposed new Vaccines for Adults Program (VFA) to further help expand access to all routine and outbreak vaccines to uninsured adults. Creating a Vaccines for Adults program would be a significant step toward filling existing gaps in vaccine coverage among US adults and provide sustained support for immunizations from year to year.

These programs represent just a small number of initiatives the CDC leads every day that safeguards and improves our constituents' lives. There are countless other programs beyond those mentioned that are essential to the health of our nation and while we recognize the fiscal

climate presents its challenges, the cost of unmitigated disease and health crises is far greater than that of investments in prevention and response.

We appreciate your strong support for the CDC in past years and look forward to working with you to increase funding for critical, long-term investments in public health. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Reverend Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator