

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 12, 2023

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Baldwin and Ranking Member Capito:

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 2024 (FY24) Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you fully fund the CDC above the President's budget request of \$11.58 billion.

This top-line request is designed with strategic and complimentary investments for CDC to address the most serious public health challenges we currently face and revitalize our fragile public health system. This FY24 request also supports CDC's efforts to build a better public health infrastructure by prioritizing investments in core capabilities to enhance the public health system at the federal, state, and local levels. As you know, CDC requires necessary and sufficient resources to carry out its mission as our nation's primary health protection agency. And this crucial agency—that saves countless lives and is instrumental in protecting people from health threats—should not be subjected to partisan interference or leveraged for political means. CDC's mission is critical, as the need to prepare for future pandemics and global health emergencies remains high.

In August 2022, CDC launched Moving Forward, to position the agency to better support the future of public health, strengthen systems and processes to deliver CDC's science and program activities to the American people equitably, and determine how CDC should be structured to focus on the agency's core capabilities. To meet these goals, CDC's budget request reflects the need for ongoing recovery and revitalization of the public health system, to address the continuing consequences of the COVID-19, and to build a better public health infrastructure for the future.

Within the \$11.58 billion FY24 request, we ask that you support, at a minimum, the following FY24 funding levels for these critical CDC initiatives:

- ***\$353 million for Global Public Health Protection (+\$60M from FY2023)***
This funding is critical to addressing recent and ongoing global health emergencies such as mpox, Ebola, and COVID-19, as well as preventable diseases such as measles and polio. These diseases have highlighted vulnerabilities in global public health capacity and the need to rebuild workforces, expand lab access, and improve response capacity into

the future. Preventing the spread of deadly diseases globally goes a long way to preventing illness and death domestically.

- ***\$340 million for the CDC's Public Health Data Modernization (+\$165M from FY2023)***

This investment, which is \$165 million above the FY23 Enacted level, is imperative to sustain enhancements to CDC's public health surveillance systems and address weaknesses exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. New improvements have resulted in better quality and timeliness of data collection from state and local health departments, as well as CDC's own internal capacity to support advanced analytical tools and better collect data during future public health crises. Significant and sustained funding will allow for improved understanding of early warning signals through increased reporting of surveillance data, decreases in clinical and public health reporting lags, and improve timeliness and accuracy of death reporting.

- ***\$600 million for Public Health Infrastructure and Capacity (+\$250M from FY2023)***

This funding will allow CDC to continue supporting jurisdictional health departments to build public health capacity to effectively protect the health of their populations. Investments will align with the Public Health National Center for Innovation framework to include areas of assessment and surveillance, community partnership development, equity, and organizational competencies. Our nation's public health departments remain at the front line against disease outbreaks and informing the public of best health practices.

- ***\$164 million for Safe Motherhood and Infant Health (+\$56M from FY2023)***

For over 50 years, CDC has been dedicated to improving the lives of women, children, and families through research, public health monitoring, scientific assistance, and partnerships. This funding, which is \$56.0 million above the FY23 Enacted level, will allow new investments to support the national infrastructure for maternal mortality prevention, including Maternal Mortality Review Committees, Perinatal Quality Collaboratives, CDC Levels of Care Assessment Tool, and the Hear Her Campaign.

- ***\$100 million for CDC's Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics (+\$50M from FY2023)***

Established as the first government-wide public health forecasting center, the Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics has enabled CDC to begin 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. The new Center functions to: 1) predict public health concerns through modeling and forecasting, 2) connect information through data sharing and integration, and 3) inform decision makers of forecasts. However, additional funding is needed to maintain and grow the Center's functionality.

- ***\$50 million for School Health (+\$30.6M from FY2023)***

CDC Healthy Schools supports states, districts, and schools in promoting student health through healthy eating and physical activity; increasing academic success; advancing physical and health education; and improving school health services and practices to address chronic conditions such as childhood obesity, diabetes and asthma for all K-12

students. This funding, which is \$30.6 million above the FY23 Enacted level, will allow the CDC to implement the Healthy Schools program in all states including mental health, resilience, and emotional well-being.

In addition to CDC's discretionary funding request for FY24, the budget also includes new proposals: Vaccines for Adults Program, which will provide uninsured adults access to vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices at no cost. CDC depends on Congress to pass a strong funding bill so it can build off the successful Vaccines for Children Program and create programs like the Vaccines for Adults Program. Additionally, the FY24 budget provides \$20 billion in mandatory funding across HHS to prepare for pandemics and other biological threats. Of this total, \$6.1 billion is allocated to CDC. We support this allocation to allow CDC to modernize and build laboratory capacity and strengthen public health data systems; enhance domestic and global disease surveillance, biosafety, and biosecurity efforts; and support capabilities for monitoring and evaluating vaccine and medical countermeasure safety and effectiveness.

These programs represent just a small number of initiatives CDC leads every day that safeguard and improves our constituents' lives. There are countless other programs beyond those mentioned that are essential to the health of the 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 within the context of a responsible federal budget. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator