

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC) COALITION

c/o American Public Health Association 800 I Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001 (202) 777-2514

April 14, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Senator Specter:

The undersigned members of the CDC Coalition urge you to provide at least \$8.6 billion for CDC's FY 2010 "core programs" as you move forward with your work on the FY 2010 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. This request does not include the mandatory funding provided for the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC). Our request reflects the support CDC will need to fulfill its core missions for fiscal year 2010. We strongly believe that the activities and programs supported by CDC are essential to protect the health of the American people.

The CDC Coalition is a nonpartisan coalition of more than 100 groups committed to strengthening our nation's 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 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 bioterrorism preparedness, chronic disease prevention, eliminating health disparities to combating the obesity epidemic. In addition, CDC funds community programs in injury control and violence prevention; health promotion efforts in communities including schools and workplaces; initiatives to prevent heart disease, cancer, stroke, and other chronic diseases; improvements in nutrition and immunization; programs to monitor and combat environmental effects on health; interventions to improve oral health; prevention of birth defects; public health research; strategies to prevent antimicrobial resistance and infectious diseases; 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 and academic institutions.

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 to smallpox to SARS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 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 being key to maintaining a strong public health infrastructure and protecting Americans from public health threats and emergencies, the CDC Coalition believes that CDC programs will play a crucial role in reducing healthcare costs and improving the public's health as Congress and the Administration work to reform the nation's health system. **We are grateful for your support in the past and urge you to support a funding level of \$8.6 billion for CDC's "core programs" in fiscal year 2010.**

Sincerely,

AIDS Foundation of Chicago
AIDS Institute
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physician Assistants
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association for Dental Research
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Association
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Pediatric Society
American Physical Therapy Association
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Public Health Association
American School Health Association
American Social Health Association
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society for Microbiology
American Thoracic Society
amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools, Inc.
Association of Schools of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Campaign for Public Health
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Coalition for American Trauma Care
Coalition for Health Services Research
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists

Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America

Digestive Disease National Coalition
Easter Seals
Emergency Nurses Association
Every Child By Two
Families USA
Hepatitis Foundation International
Infectious Disease Society of America
March of Dimes Foundation
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors
National Association for Sport and Physical Education
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of State EMS Officials
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Hemophilia Foundation
National Marfan Foundation
National Recreation and Park Association
Nephcure Foundation
Partnership for Prevention
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Research!America
Scleroderma Foundation
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S.
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
Society for Pediatric Research
Society for Public Health Education
Trust for America's Health
United Cerebral Palsy
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease
YMCA of the USA

Cc: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Humans Services, Education and Related Agencies