



American
Public Health
Association

800 I Street, N.W. • Washington, DC 20001-3710
Phone: (202) 777-APHA • Fax: (202) 777-2534
www.apha.org • comments@apha.org

Protect, Prevent, Live Well

June 19, 2012

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

Dear Chairman Harkin:

On behalf of the American Public Health Association (APHA), the oldest and most diverse organization of public health professionals and advocates in the world, I write to thank you for your support for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in the FY 2013 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill.

As you know, CDC's budget authority has been reduced by more than \$700 million since FY 2010. At the same time, the agency continues to be faced with unprecedented challenges and responsibilities, ranging from chronic disease and injury prevention, bioterrorism preparedness, preventing infectious disease, combating the tobacco and obesity epidemics and promoting healthy environments and safeguarding the public from environmental hazards. APHA appreciates your leadership in supporting funding for CDC and rejecting the administration's proposed cuts to key programs within the agency.

We also appreciate your support for HRSA's programs which fund health services for individuals and families in every state and territory. HRSA's discretionary budget has been reduced by more than \$1.2 billion since FY 2010. The agency serves as a health safety net for the medically underserved, including the nearly 50 million Americans who were uninsured in 2010 and 60 million Americans who live in neighborhoods where primary health care services are scarce. Adequate funding is essential to ensuring HRSA is able to implement training for public health and health care professionals, provide primary care services through community health centers, improve access to care for rural communities, support maternal and child health care programs and provide health care to people living with HIV/AIDS.

We truly appreciate your prioritization of critical public health agencies and programs in developing your bill. We look forward to working with you and other members of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees as you move forward with finalizing the FY 2013 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Georges C. Benjamin".

Georges C. Benjamin, MD, FACP, FACEP (E)
Executive Director