

CDC Coalition

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House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies

The [CDC Coalition is a nonpartisan coalition of more than 140 organizations](#) committed to strengthening our nation's prevention programs. We represent millions of public health workers, clinicians, researchers, educators and citizens served by CDC programs. We believe Congress should support CDC as an agency, not just its individual programs and urge a funding level of **\$7.8 billion for CDC's programs in FY 2020**. We are grateful for the important increases provided for CDC programs in FY 2019 and urge Congress to continue efforts to build upon these investments to strengthen all of CDC's programs. We oppose any effort to repeal or cut the Prevention and Public Health Fund which makes up about 10 percent of CDC's budget and funds critical prevention programs. We also strongly oppose all of the proposed cuts to CDC programs contained in the president's FY 2020 budget proposal and urge the subcommittee to reject them.

CDC serves as the command center for the nation's public health defense system against emerging and reemerging infectious diseases. From aiding in the surveillance, detection and prevention of the Zika virus to playing a lead role in the control of Ebola in West Africa and detecting and responding to cases in the U.S., to monitoring and investigating disease outbreaks in the U.S., to pandemic flu preparedness to combating antimicrobial resistance, CDC is the nation's – and the world's – expert resource and response center, coordinating communications and action and serving as the laboratory reference center for identifying, testing and characterizing potential agents of biological, chemical and radiological terrorism, emerging infectious diseases and other public health emergencies. CDC serves as the lead agency for bioterrorism and other public health emergency preparedness and response programs and must receive sustained support for its preparedness programs. Given the challenges of terrorism and

disaster preparedness we urge you to provide adequate funding for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness grants which provide resources to our state and local health departments to help them protect communities in the face of public health emergencies. We urge you to provide adequate funding for CDC's infectious disease, laboratory and emergency preparedness and response activities in order to ensure we are prepared to tackle both ongoing challenges and other public health challenges and emergencies that may likely arise during the coming fiscal year.

Injuries are the leading causes of death for people ages 1-44. Unintentional and violence-related injuries, such as older adult falls, firearm injury, child maltreatment and sexual violence, account for nearly 27 million emergency department visits each year. In 2013, injury and violence cost the U.S. \$671 billion in direct and indirect medical costs. In 2017, opioids killed 46,700 individuals nationwide. CDC provides states with resources for opioid overdose prevention programs and to ensure that health providers to have the information they need to improve opioid prescribing and prevent addiction and abuse. In 2017, there were over 39,000 U.S. firearm-related fatalities. Congress should provide CDC with dedicated funding for firearm morbidity and mortality prevention research. The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control must be adequately funded to conduct research, prevent injuries, and help save lives.

In 2016, over 635,000 people in the U.S. died from heart disease, the nation's number one killer, accounting for about 23 percent of all U.S. deaths. More males than females died of heart disease in 2016, while more females than males died of stroke that year. Stroke is the fifth leading cause of death and is a leading cause of disability. In 2016, over 142,000 people died of stroke, accounting for about one of every 19 deaths. CDC's Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program, WISEWOMAN, and Million Hearts work to improve cardiovascular health.

More than 1.7 million new cancer cases and over 600,000 deaths from cancer are

expected in 2019. In 2015 the direct medical costs of cancer was \$80.2 billion. The National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program helps millions of low-income, uninsured and medically underserved women gain access to lifesaving breast and cervical cancer screenings and provides a gateway to treatment upon diagnosis. The Colorectal Cancer Control Program focuses on improving screening rates among targeted, low-income populations aged 50–75 years in targeted states and territories through evidence-based interventions using partner health systems. CDC funds grants to all 50 states, DC, 7 tribes and tribal organizations, and 7 U.S. territories and Pacific Island jurisdictions to develop comprehensive cancer control plans, bringing together public and private stakeholders to set priorities and implement cancer prevention and control activities to address each state’s particular needs.

Cigarette smoking causes more than 480,000 deaths each year. CDC’s Office of Smoking and Health funds important programs and education campaigns such as the Tips From Former Smokers campaign which has already helped more than 500,000 individuals quit smoking and millions more to make a serious quit attempt. We must continue to support this and other vital programs to reduce the enormous health and economic costs of tobacco use in the U.S.

Of the more than 30 million Americans living with diabetes, more than 7 million cases are undiagnosed. Each year, about 1.5 million people are newly diagnosed with diabetes. Diabetes is the leading cause of kidney failure, nontraumatic lower-limb amputations, and new cases of blindness among adults in the U.S. The total direct and indirect costs associated with diabetes were \$327 billion in 2017. We urge you to provide adequate resources for the Division of Diabetes Translation which funds critical diabetes prevention, surveillance and control programs.

Obesity prevalence in the U.S. remains high. More than one-third of adults are obese and 18.5 percent of children ages of 2 to 19 are obese. Obesity, diet and inactivity are cross-cutting

risk factors that contribute significantly to heart disease, cancer, stroke and diabetes. The Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity funds programs to encourage the consumption of fruits and vegetables, encourage sufficient exercise and develop other habits of healthy nutrition and physical activity and must be adequately funded.

Arthritis is the most common cause of disability in the U.S., striking more than 54 million Americans of all ages, races and ethnicities. CDC's Arthritis Program helps address this growing public health challenge and works to improve the quality of life for individuals affected by arthritis and we urge you to support adequate funding for the program.

CDC provides national leadership in helping control the HIV epidemic by working with community, state, national, and international partners in surveillance, research, prevention and evaluation activities. CDC estimates that about 1.1 million Americans are living with HIV with 15 percent undiagnosed. Prevention of HIV transmission is the best defense against the AIDS epidemic. Sexually transmitted diseases continue to be a significant public health problem in the U.S. Nearly 20 million new infections occur each year. STDs, including HIV, cost the U.S. healthcare system almost \$16 billion annually.

The National Center for Health Statistics collects data on chronic disease prevalence, health disparities, emergency room use, teen pregnancy, infant mortality and causes of death. The health data collected through the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Youth Tobacco Survey, National Vital Statistics System, and National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey must be adequately funded.

CDC's REACH program helps communities address serious disparities in infant mortality, breast and cervical cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, HIV/AIDS and immunizations by supporting community-based interventions and we urge the committee to provide continued funding for these important activities.

CDC oversees immunization programs for children, adolescents and adults, and is a global partner in the ongoing effort to eradicate polio worldwide. Childhood immunizations provide one of the best returns on investment of any public health program. For every dollar spent on childhood vaccines to prevent thirteen diseases, more than \$10 is saved in direct and indirect costs. Over the past 20 years, CDC estimates childhood immunizations have prevented 732,000 deaths and 322 million illnesses. We urge you to provide adequate funding for the Section 317 Immunization program. Congress must support efforts to stop current vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks and prevent more from occurring.

Birth defects affect one in 33 babies and are a leading cause of infant death in the U.S. Children with birth defects that survive often experience lifelong physical and mental disabilities. Approximately one in six U.S. children are living with at least one developmental disability and one in four adults live with a disability. The National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities conducts programs to prevent birth defects and developmental disabilities and promote the health of people living with disabilities and blood disorders.

Programs within CDC's National Center for Environmental Health work to control asthma, protect from threats associated with natural disasters and climate change, reduce, monitor and track exposure to lead and other environmental health hazards and ensure access to safe and clean water. Increased funding for NCEH's environmental health prevention activities will help reduce illness, disease, injury and even death.

In order to meet the many ongoing public health challenges facing the nation, including those outlined above, we urge you to support our **FY 2020 request of \$7.8 billion for CDC's programs.**