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

APHA is a diverse community of public health professionals that champions the health of all people and communities. We are pleased to submit our request of \$11.851 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and \$10.5 billion for the Health Resources and Services Administration in FY 2027. Robust funding for CDC and HRSA programs that promote public health and prevention, support surveillance of infectious disease and bolster America's public health workforce will be critical in addressing both the ongoing health impacts of the many health challenges we face as a nation. Now more than ever we need to ensure our nation's public health workforce is adequately resourced to protect the health of the public in all of our states and communities. We strongly oppose the president's FY 2027 budget proposal for CDC, HRSA and other HHS agencies that would slash critical funding for many important public health programs that provide funding to every state. This funding helps states and communities address chronic and infectious diseases, environmental health threats, emergency preparedness, injury prevention, substance misuse prevention, public health workforce development and many other essential efforts that help keep our communities safe, healthy and thriving.

We are deeply opposed to the actions by the administration that have significantly weakened the workforce at CDC and HRSA and threatens the rest of the nation's public health system and our efforts to combat many of the leading causes of death and disability in the nation. This includes the claw back or cancellation of billions in previously appropriated funding to our state and local health departments and an unworkable reorganization of CDC and HRSA that eliminates critical programs to address chronic diseases, infectious diseases, injury and violence, occupational health and safety, the prevention of global health threats and strengthening our health care and public health workforce.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

CDC provides the foundation for our state and local public health departments, supporting a trained workforce, laboratory capacity and public health education communications systems. It is notable that 80% of CDC's budget supports public health and prevention activities by state and local health organizations and agencies, national public health partners and academic institutions. We urge a funding level of \$11.851 billion in FY 2027. We urge Congress to build upon past investments to strengthen all of CDC's programs, many of which remain woefully underfunded and to reject the administration's proposed cuts and misguided reorganization for the agency which would decimate many of the agency's important programs that work every day to keep our communities healthy. We ask that you once again work in a bipartisan manner this year to fund the agency and its many programs that protect the public from health threats and prevent disease and disability. We also urge you to conduct congressional oversight related to any

proposed agency and program reorganizations, maintain protections included in the FY 2026 bill in the FY 2027 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill that ensure funding is disbursed on time and for intended programs and grants, maintain staffing to meet the agency's statutory requirements, and reject controversial policy riders that negatively impact public health.

CDC serves as the command center for the nation's public health defense system against emerging and reemerging infectious diseases as well as man-made and natural disasters. The agency plays a leading role in detecting and mitigating disease outbreaks in the U.S. and globally. CDC is currently monitoring and investigating the measles cases and outbreaks that have impacted 33 states, resulting in more than 1600 confirmed cases, and is on alert for other disease outbreaks in the U.S. and internationally. CDC also leads the nation's efforts for pandemic flu and other public health preparedness activities and is the nation's – and a global – expert resource and response center, coordinating communications and action and serving as the laboratory reference center. States, communities and international partners rely on CDC for accurate information, expertise and resources to ensure they can prepare, respond and recover from a crisis or disease outbreak.

We support, at a minimum, \$1 billion in funding to bolster core public health infrastructure and capacity at the federal, state, territorial and local levels and thank the committee for its past support of this important funding stream. This flexible funding is critical to addressing the gaps in core public health infrastructure and capacity at all levels as well as ensuring our nation's health departments are able to attract and retain experienced leaders and respond to future public health emergencies and disease outbreaks. Sustained, robust, flexible funding is critical to rebuilding and strengthening the nation's public health system.

CDC serves as the lead agency for bioterrorism and other public health emergency preparedness and response programs. 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 during public health emergencies. We also urge you to provide adequate funding for CDC's infectious disease, laboratory and disease detection capabilities to ensure we are prepared to tackle the many public health challenges and emergencies that will likely arise during the coming fiscal year. Your continued support for CDC's public health Data Modernization Initiative is critical to ensuring we have both the world-class data workforce and data systems that are ready for the next public health emergency.

We thank Congress for providing CDC with dedicated funding for firearm morbidity and mortality prevention research and we strongly urge you to increase this funding in FY 2026 to \$35 million for CDC and \$25 million for NIH. This will allow CDC to continue to support research into important issues including the best ways to prevent unintended firearm injuries and fatalities among women and children; the most effective methods to prevent firearm-related suicides; and the measures that can best prevent the next shooting at a school or public place. We also urge Congress to fund the many other critical programs under CDC's Injury Center which address and work to prevent suicides, opioid and other drug overdose, address adverse childhood experiences, track and monitor the causes of violent death in our communities and conduct critical research to protect Americans from injury and violence. We are deeply opposed the

Trump administration's proposed changes that would eliminate many of the current programs under the center.

CDC's National Center for Environmental Health works to control asthma, protect against threats associated with natural disasters and climate change, reduce and monitor exposure to lead and other environmental health hazards and ensure access to safe and clean water. We urge you to provide \$420.85 million for NCEH. Increased funding will allow CDC to provide funding to states and local governments to help protect our communities from serious environmental health threats that are especially and to support additional, cities, counties and tribes to help them prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate- and weather-related health threats in their communities. We strongly oppose the Trump administration's efforts to eliminate and undercut critical programs within the Center including the Environmental Health Tracking program, the Asthma program and the Climate and Health program among others.

Programs under the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion address heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes and tobacco use that are the leading causes of death and disability in the U.S. and are also among the costliest to our health system. CDC provides funding for state programs to prevent disease, conduct surveillance to collect data on disease prevalence, monitor intervention efforts and translate scientific findings into public health practice in our communities. We strongly urge increased investments in these critical programs that are essential to reducing death, disability and health care costs. Chronic disease and infectious disease are linked. Unfortunately, the president's budget proposal once again proposes to transfer the programs to a newly proposed Administration for a Healthy America and then eliminates funding for nearly every chronic disease program. People with underlying health conditions are at higher risk of death from infectious diseases like flu and natural disasters like extreme heat. Preventing and reducing chronic disease makes people more resilient to pandemics and other emergencies. It is critical that existing CDC programs remain fully funded at the agency so they can continue to collaborate and work together to address the many complex health threats our nation faces.

Health Resources and Services Administration:

HRSA is the primary federal agency dedicated to improving health outcomes and achieving health equity. HRSA's programs, including more than 3,000 grantees, support tens of millions of geographically isolated, economically or medically vulnerable people, in every U.S. state and territory, to achieve improved health outcomes by increasing access to quality health care and services; fostering a health care workforce able to address current and emerging needs; enhance population health and address health disparities through community partnerships; and promote transparency and accountability within the health care system.

HRSA's discretionary budget authority is far too low to effectively address the nation's current public health and health care needs. We recommend Congress build upon the important increases provided in previous years and provide \$10.5 billion for the Health Resources and Services Administration in FY 2027. We urge you to oppose attempts by the administration to eliminate programs and cut funding at HRSA, oppose the firing of federal staff whose work the agency's programs depend on, and to prioritize passing funding legislation in a timely manner to avoid lengthy continuing resolutions that

bring uncertainty and make it more difficult for the agency and its grantees to protect the public's health. We are also extremely concerned about new "strategic priority areas" for HRSA that include restricting health care for transgender youth, restricting access to reproductive health care, cutting funding from harm reduction and substance abuse programs, making it more difficult for immigrants to access health programs, and scaling back the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program. We urge Congress to reject these misguided focus areas and instead focus on HRSA's mission to provide programs that strengthen the health workforce and increase access to care in ways that are informed by evidence and science.

HRSA programs and grantees are providing innovative and successful solutions to some of the nation's greatest health care challenges including the rise in maternal mortality, the severe shortage of health professionals, the high cost of health care and behavioral health issues related to substance use disorders— including opioid misuse. Additional funding will allow HRSA to build upon these successes and pave the way for new achievements by supporting critical HRSA programs, including:

The Community Health Center Program that supports more than 16,000 health center sites which provide high quality primary care services to over 32 million people and reduce barriers such as cost, lack of insurance, distance and language for their patients.

Health Workforce programs that support the health workforce across the training continuum by strengthening the workforce and connecting skilled professionals to communities in need. Programs such as the Public Health Training Centers assess and respond to critical workforce needs through training, technical assistance and student support.

Maternal and Child Health programs that support patient-centered, evidence-based programs that optimize health, minimize disparities and improve health promotion and health care access for medically and economically vulnerable women, infants and children.

Ryan White HIV/AIDS programs that provide medical care and treatment services to over half a million people living with HIV. Ryan White programs effectively engage clients in comprehensive care and treatment, including increasing access to HIV medication, which has resulted in 91.4% of clients achieving viral suppression, compared to just 65.0% of all people living with HIV nationwide.

Title X Family Planning Program that served 2.8 million people in 2023 and increases access to contraception, limits transmission of sexually transmitted infections and increases early detection of breast and cervical cancer by increasing access to family planning and related preventive health services for adults and adolescents in communities across the country.

In closing, we emphasize that the public health system requires stronger financial investments at every stage. It is critical that Congress increase its investments in CDC and HRSA programs to enable the nation to meet the mounting health challenges we currently face and to become a healthier nation. We also reiterate our call for Congress to reject any efforts to dismantle these and other critical HHS agencies or to eliminate or cut funding for any of the essential CDC and HRSA programs that may be proposed by the administration.