The CDC Coalition is a nonpartisan coalition of more than 140 organizations 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 critical 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, clinicians, researchers, educators, and citizens served by CDC programs.

The CDC Coalition believes that Congress should support CDC as an agency – not just the individual programs that it funds. In the best judgment of the CDC Coalition – given the challenges and burdens of chronic disease, a potential influenza pandemic, terrorism, disaster preparedness, new and reemerging infectious diseases and our many unmet public health needs and missed prevention opportunities – we believe the agency will require funding of at least $7.8 billion for CDC’s programs in FY 2013. We are deeply disappointed with the proposed $664 million cut to CDC’s budget authority contained in the president’s FY 2013 budget proposal. In fact, when including the president’s FY 2013 request, CDC’s budget authority would have been decreased by a staggering $1.4 billion since FY 2010. While CDC has received and the president’s FY 2013 budget proposal directs significant funding from the Prevention and Public Health Fund to CDC, we believe this funding is essentially supplanting cuts made to CDC’s budget authority. As you know, the Prevention and Public Health Fund was intended to supplement and not supplant the base funding of our public health agencies and programs. We urge you to restore this cut to CDC’s budget authority and to support the $1 billion available through Prevention and Public Health Fund in FY 2013.

By translating research findings into effective intervention efforts, CDC has been a key source of funding for many of our state and local programs that aim to improve the health of communities. Perhaps more importantly, federal funding through CDC provides the foundation for our state and local public
health departments, supporting a trained workforce, laboratory capacity and public health education communications systems.

CDC serves as the command center for our nation’s public health defense system, conducting surveillance and detection of emerging and reemerging infectious diseases. With the potential onset of a worldwide influenza pandemic, in addition to the many other natural and man-made threats that exist in the modern world, the CDC has become the nation’s—and the world’s—expert resource and response center, coordinating communications and action and serving as the laboratory reference center.

CDC serves as the lead agency for bioterrorism and other public health emergency preparedness and must receive sustained support for its preparedness programs in order for our nation to meet future challenges. Given the challenges of terrorism and disaster preparedness, and our many unmet public health needs and missed prevention opportunities we urge you to provide adequate funding for state and local capacity grants.

Heart disease remains the nation’s No. 1 killer. In 2009, over 599,000 people in the United States died from heart disease, accounting for nearly 25% of all U.S. deaths. More women than men die of heart disease and stroke each year, and in 2009, females had higher rates of stroke mortality than males. Stroke is the fourth leading cause of death and is a leading cause of disability. In 2009, stroke killed almost 129,000 people (60% of them women), accounting for about 1 of every 19 deaths.

Cancer is the second most common cause of death in the United States. There are 1,638,910 new cancer cases and 577,190 deaths from cancer expected in 2012. The financial cost of cancer is also significant. According to the National Institutes of Health, in 2007 the overall cost for cancer in the U.S. was more than $226.8 billion: $103.8 billion for direct medical costs, $123.0 billion for indirect mortality costs (cost of lost productivity due to premature death). Among the ways CDC is fighting cancer, is through funding the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program that helps low-income, uninsured and medically underserved women gain access to lifesaving breast and cervical cancer screenings and provides a gateway to treatment upon diagnosis. CDC also funds grants to all 50 states to develop Comprehensive Cancer Control plans, bringing together a broad partnership of public and private
stakeholders to set joint priorities and implement specific cancer prevention and control activities customized to address each state’s particular needs.

Although more than 25.8 million Americans have diabetes, nearly 7 million cases are undiagnosed. In 2010, about 1.9 million people aged 20 years or older were 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 $178 billion in 2007. Preventive care such as routine eye and foot examinations, self-monitoring of blood glucose, and glycemic control could reduce these numbers.

Arthritis is the most common cause of disability in the U.S., striking 50 million Americans of all ages, races and ethnicities. CDC’s Arthritis Program plays a critical role in addressing this growing public health crisis.

Over the last 25 years, obesity rates have doubled among adults and children, and tripled in teens. Obesity, diet and inactivity are cross-cutting risk factors that contribute significantly to heart disease, cancer, stroke and diabetes. CDC funds programs to encourage the consumption of fruits and vegetables, encourage sufficient exercise, and to develop other habits of healthy nutrition and activity. An estimated 443,000 people die prematurely every year due to tobacco use. CDC’s tobacco control efforts seek to prevent tobacco addition in the first place, as well as help those who want to quit. We must continue to support these vital programs and reduce tobacco use in the United States.

Each day more than 3,800 young people initiate cigarette smoking. At the same time, according to CDC, only one out of three high school students participate in daily physical education classes. Seventy eight percent of high school students do not eat the recommended number of servings of fruits and vegetables, while one in three children and adolescents are overweight or obese. And every year, more than 400,000 teen girls give birth and nearly half of all sexually transmitted diseases occur in young people between the ages of 15 and 24. CDC plays a critical role in ensuring good public health and health promotion in our schools.

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, 21 percent of who are undiagnosed. Also, the number of people living with HIV is increasing, as new drug therapies are keeping HIV-infected persons healthy longer and dramatically reducing the death rate. Prevention of HIV transmission is the best defense against the AIDS epidemic that has already killed more than 619,400 in the U.S. and is devastating populations around the globe.

The United States has the highest rates of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in the industrialized world. More than 19 million new infections occur each year, almost half of them among young people. CDC estimates that STDs, including HIV, cost the U.S. healthcare system as much as $17 billion annually. An adequate investment in STD prevention could save millions in annual health care costs in the future.


We must address the growing disparity in the health of racial and ethnic minorities. CDC is helping states address serious disparities in infant mortality, breast and cervical cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, HIV/AIDS and immunizations. Our members are committed to ending the disparities and we encourage the Subcommittee to provide adequate funds for these efforts.

CDC oversees immunization programs for children, adolescents and adults, and is a global partner in the ongoing effort to eradicate polio worldwide. The value of adult immunization programs to improve length and quality of life, and to save health care costs, is realized through a number of CDC programs, but there is much work to be done and a need for sound funding to achieve our goals. Influenza vaccination levels remain low for adults. Levels are substantially lower for pneumococcal vaccination and significant racial and ethnic disparities in vaccination levels persist among the elderly. In addition, developing functional immunization registries in all states will be less costly in the long run than maintaining the incomplete systems currently in place. Childhood immunizations provide one of the best returns on
investment of any public health program. For every dollar spent on seven vaccines recommended in the childhood series, $16.50 is saved in direct and indirect costs. An estimated 14 million cases of childhood disease and 33,000 deaths are prevented each year through timely immunization. Despite the incredible success of the program, it faces serious financial challenges.

Injuries are the leading causes of death for persons aged 1-44 years. Unintentional injuries and violence such as older adult falls, unintentional drug poisonings, child maltreatment and sexual violence accounts for over 35% of emergency department visits annually. Annually, injury and violence cost the U.S. approximately $406 billion in direct and indirect medical costs including lost productivity. Unintentional injury consistently remains the leading cause of death among young Americans ages 1-34 with the majority of unintentional fatal injuries caused by motor vehicle traffic fatalities. CDC’s Injury Center works to prevent unintentional and violence-related injuries to minimize the consequences of injuries when they occur by researching the problem; identifying the risk and protective factors; developing and testing interventions and ensuring widespread adoption of proven strategies.

One in every 33 babies born each year in the United States is born with one or more birth defects. Birth defects are the leading cause of infant mortality. Children with birth defects who survive often experience lifelong physical and mental disabilities. More than 50 million people in the U.S currently live with a disability, and 17 percent of children under the age of 18 have a developmental disability. The National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities at CDC conducts programs to protect and improve the health of children and adults by preventing birth defects and developmental disabilities; promoting optimal child development and health and wellness among children and adults with disabilities.

CDC’s Center for Environmental Health is essential to protecting and ensuring the health and well being of the American public from threats associated with West Nile virus, climate change, terrorism, E. coli, lead-based paint and other hazards. We ask you to support adequate funding for these vital programs which has been significantly reduced over the past several years.

In order to meet the ongoing public health challenges outlined above, we urge you to adopt our FY 2013 request of $7.8 billion for CDC’s programs.