

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

May 15, 2008

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 \$7.4 billion for CDC's FY09 "core programs" as you move forward with your work on the FY09 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 2009. 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, 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; health promotion efforts in 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.

The CDC Coalition believes that CDC programs are crucial to the health of millions of Americans, key to maintaining a strong public health infrastructure, and essential in protecting us from threats to our health. We are grateful for your support in the past and urge you to support a funding level of \$7.4 billion for CDC's "core programs" in FY 2009.

Sincerely,

AIDS Action
AIDS Institute
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Health Education
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Pediatric Society
American Physical Therapy Association
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychological Association
American Thoracic Society
American Public Health Association
American Society for Microbiology
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
Association for Professionals in Infection Control in Epidemiology
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of State & Territorial Health Officials
Association of Schools of Public Health
Brain Injury Association of America
Campaign for Public Health
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Coalition for American Trauma Care
Coalition of National Health Education Organizations
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America
Emergency Nurses Association
Families USA Global Health Initiative
Hepatitis Foundation International
Home Safety Council
Infectious Diseases Society of America
March of Dimes Foundation
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors
National Association of City and County Health Officials
National Association of Local Boards of Health
National Coalition for LGBT Health
National Hemophilia Foundation
National Marfan Foundation

National REACH Coalition
National Sleep Foundation
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Research to Prevention
Scleroderma Foundation
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States
Society for Pediatric Research
Society for Public Health Education
Trust for America's Health
YMCA of the USA