

IT'S TIME TO BUILD CAPACITY TO MEET MOUNTING HEALTH NEEDS

March XX, 2010

Dear Member of Congress:

Congress has made historic strides toward comprehensive health system change—which begins, not ends, with health reform legislation. The U.S. Public Health Service and its myriad programs are essential for improving health and health care through greater access, higher quality, lower costs, improved safety, faster cures, and ultimately, healthier people. Recognizing this critical responsibility, Congress and the Administration have made public health a priority, working to strengthen segments of the public health infrastructure through modest increases in health agencies' annual budgets and, most notably, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The undersigned organizations deeply appreciate your efforts in this regard.

Nevertheless, the public health system requires additional support after years of underinvestment. We are concerned that our already fragile public health infrastructure lacks the capacity to support mounting health needs under the weight of an ongoing recession, an aging population, a health workforce shortage, and persisting declines in health status.

The FY 2011 budget provides an opportunity to increase momentum for health reform by building on previous investments in the U.S. Public Health Service and making capacity created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act permanent. With sustained and stable investment, the public health continuum will keep America healthy and “bend the cost curve” by preventing costly chronic diseases, stemming the cause of disability, including behavioral and developmental disorders, identifying the most effective treatments, discovering new therapies and cures, developing a robust health workforce, and protecting our food and drug supply.

The undersigned organizations believe that discretionary public health programs require \$67.1 billion in FY 2011 to support our nation's mounting health needs (calculation sheet attached). Specifically, this \$9.3 billion increase over FY 2010 levels would bolster:

- **Biomedical and Behavioral Research:** Building on the momentum emerging from strategic investments in scientific discovery, which will lead to new early screenings and treatments for health challenges. Moreover, sustained long-term investment in research is contributing to economic revitalization in communities nationwide and vital to the nation's long-term competitiveness.
- **Disease Prevention and Health Promotion:** Improving state and community-based prevention and early intervention activities that address costly chronic diseases, infectious diseases, including those that are becoming increasingly drug-resistant, strengthening public health capacity and ensuring those with disabilities reach their highest potential in function and health.
- **Access to Safety Net Health Care Services:** Assuring access to basic and targeted health care services for the rapidly growing numbers of Americans who lack health insurance as recession-related unemployment increases.
- **Health Professions Education:** Assuring that there is a well-trained, diverse health and public health workforce to serve as the foundation for the nation's health care system
- **Mental Health and Substance Abuse:** Assuring access to needed mental health and substance abuse services for hundreds of thousands who must wait months for care, including Veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan; reducing the 15-20 year lag from bench to bedside of promising new treatments.
- **Health Services Research:** Building the evidence needed to ensure patients get the right care at the right time, every time; providing decision makers with information that will help control unsustainable costs.

- **Health care for American Indians and Alaska Natives:** Reversing current health disparities for this population that now suffers a life expectancy that is four years lower than the general population.
- **Food and Drug Safety:** Assuring the nation has a safe food supply and a safe and effective supply of drugs and medical devices.

Our recommendation does not include, but rather is over and above, emergency funding requests.

We thank you for your ongoing support of the public health continuum, and look forward to working with you. If you have questions, please contact Emily J. Holubowich, Executive Director of the Coalition for Health Funding at eholubowich@dc-crd.com or 202.484.1100.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
 Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
 Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research
 Administrators of Internal Medicine
 AIDS Action
 AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts, Inc.
 AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth and Families
 The AIDS Institute
 AIDS Project Los Angeles
 Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
 Alliance for Aging Research
 Alpha-1 Association
 Alpha-1 Foundation
 Alzheimer's Association
 American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
 American Academy of Family Physicians
 American Academy of Neurology
 American Academy of Pediatrics
 American Academy of Physician Assistants
 American Association of Anatomists
 American Association for Cancer Research
 American Association of Colleges of Nursing
 American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
 American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
 American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine
 American Association for Dental Research
 American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
 American Association for Health Education
 American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
 American Association for Respiratory Care
 American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
 The American Brain Coalition
 American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
 American College of Cardiology
 American College of Clinical Pharmacy
 American College of Neuropsychopharmacology
 American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
 American College of Physicians

American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dance Therapy Association
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Dietetic Association
American Epilepsy Society
American Gastroenterological Association
American Heart Association
American Hospital Association
American Lung Association
American Medical Student Association
American Medical Women's Association
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Nurses Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Osteopathic Association
American Pediatric Society
American Physiological Society
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Radiologic and Imaging Nursing
American Society on Aging
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
American Society for Cell Biology
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society for Microbiology
American Society of Nephrology
American Society for Nutrition
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
American Sociological Association
American Telemedicine Association
American Thoracic Society
American Tinnitus Association
amfAR - The Foundation for AIDS Research
Arthritis Foundation
Association of Academic Health Science Libraries
Association for Clinical Research Training
Association of Departments of Family Medicine
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Association for Patient-Oriented Research
Association of Population Centers
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association of Professors of Medicine

Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine
Association for Psychological Science
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association for Radiology and Imaging Nursing
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology
Association of Schools of Public Health
Association of Specialty Professors
Association of State & Territorial Health Officials
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Association of Women's Health
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Biophysical Society
Boys Town National Research Hospital
CADASIL
California Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors
California Foundation for the Advancement of Addiction Professionals
Campaign for Public Health
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Charles Drew University
Children's Environmental Health Network
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine
Clinical Research Forum
Coalition for the Advancement of Health through Behavioral and Social Sciences Research
Coalition for Health Services Research
Coalition for the Life Sciences
Coalition to Protect Research
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Cooley's Anemia Foundation
COPD Foundation
Council of Accredited MPH Programs
The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Diseases Society of America
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation
Emergency Nurses Association
The Endocrine Society
Epilepsy Foundation
Family Voices
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences
Friends of AHRQ
Friends of Cancer Research
Friends of the National Institute on Aging
Friends of NCHS
Friends of SAMHSA
Gay and Lesbian Medical Association

Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Health Professions Network
Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition
HIV Medicine Association
Infectious Diseases Society of America
International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium
International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders
Interstitial Cystitis Association
Intracranial Hypertension Research Foundation
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
Life Technologies Corporation
Lupus Research Institute
March of Dimes Foundation
Medical Group Management Association
Medical Library Association
Meharry Medical College
Mental Health America
Morehouse School of Medicine
Mount Sinai Medical Center
Nashville CARES
National AHEC Organization
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors
National Association of Children's Hospitals
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association for Geriatric Education
National Association of Geriatric Education Centers
National Association of Local Boards of Health
National Association of Medical Minority Educators, Inc.
National Association of Neonatal Nurses
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors
National Business Coalition on Health
National Coalition for Cancer Research
National Coalition for LGBT Health
National Coalition of Mental Health Consumer/Survivor Organizations
National Council on Diversity in the Health Professions
The National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Health Council
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Kidney Foundation
National League for Nursing

National Marfan Foundation
National Nursing Centers Consortium
National Osteoporosis Foundation
National Rural Health Association
The NephCure Foundation
New York Stem Cell Foundation
North American Primary Care Research Group
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Ovarian Cancer National Alliance
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN)
PKD Foundation
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Population Association of America
Prevent Blindness America
Public Health Institute
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Research!America
Scleroderma Foundation
Service Employees International Union
Society for Adolescent Medicine
Society for Clinical and Translational Science
Society for General Internal Medicine
Society of Gynecologic Oncologists
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Medical Decision Making
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Pediatric Research
Society for Public Health Education
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
Society of Trauma Nurses
Society for Women's Health Research
State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association
Treatment Action Group
Trust for America's Health
Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS Prevention Services
U.S. Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease