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Senate 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 at least \$11 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and at least \$9.8 billion for the Health Resources and Services Administration in FY 2023. 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 short-term and long-term health impacts of COVID-19 and the many other health challenges we face as a nation. We are thankful for the emergency supplemental funding provided to CDC and HRSA to support the nation's response to COVID-19 and we urge the committee to ensure that all CDC and HRSA programs are adequately funded in FY 2023.

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 more than 70% 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 at least \$11 billion in FY 2023. We are grateful for the important increases provided for CDC programs in FY 2022 and for the critical emergency funding provided to the agency to address COVID-19. We urge Congress to build upon these investments to strengthen all of CDC's programs, many of which remain woefully underfunded. We also urge your continued support for the Prevention and Public Health Fund which currently makes up nearly 11% of CDC's budget.

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. From playing a leading role in aiding in the surveillance, detection and mitigation of the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S. and globally, to monitoring and investigating other disease outbreaks, to pandemic flu preparedness, CDC 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, direction and resources to ensure they can prepare, respond and recover from a crisis or disease outbreak.

We strongly support the president's budget request for an additional \$400 million, for a total of \$600 million, in funding to bolster core public health infrastructure and capacity at the federal, state, territorial and local levels. 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, 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 both ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and other 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 in FY 2020 and FY 2021 and we strongly urge you to increase this funding in FY 2023 to \$35 million for CDC and \$25 million for NIH, as requested in President Biden's FY 2023 budget proposal. 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.

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 at least \$401.85 million for NCEH in FY 2023, including \$110 million for CDC's Climate and Health program, as requested in President Biden's FY 2023 budget request. Climate change is threatening our health in many ways through the increased spread of vector-borne diseases, degraded air quality from ozone pollution and wildfire smoke, hotter temperatures and more extreme weather events. Increased funding will allow CDC to provide funding to all 50 states and to support additional, cities, counties and tribes to help them prepare for and respond to the health impacts of climate change in their communities.

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. In particular, we urge your support for the president's request of \$153 million for CDC's Social Determinants of Health Program. This increased funding would allow CDC to provide public health departments, academic institutions and nonprofit organizations funding and tools to support cross sector efforts to address the impact that social determinants of health such as unsafe and unstable housing, income insecurity, lack of transportation, and underlying health inequities have on the health of their communities.

Health Resources and Services Administration: HRSA is the primary federal agency dedicated to improving health outcomes and achieving health equity. HRSA's 90-plus programs and 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.

We are grateful for the increases provided for HRSA programs in FY 2022 and for the emergency supplemental funding to battle the COVID-19 pandemic, but 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 they provided HRSA in FY 2022 and provide at least \$9.8 billion for the Health Resources and Services Administration in FY 2023.

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:

Primary Health Care that supports more than 13,500 health center sites which provide high quality primary care services to nearly 29 million people and reduce barriers such as cost, lack of insurance, distance and language for their patients.

Health Workforce supports 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 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. • HRSA's Ryan

Ryan White HIV/AIDS programs provides 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 89.4% of clients achieving viral suppression, compared to just 65.5% of all people living with HIV nationwide.

Title X Family Planning program reduces unintended pregnancy rates, limits transmission of sexually transmitted infections and increases early detection of breast and cervical cancer by ensuring access to family planning and related preventive health services to millions of women, men and adolescents.

Rural Health supports community solutions to improve efficiencies in delivering rural health services and expand access, including supporting activities that aim to increase access to opioid treatment in rural areas and promote the use of health information technology and telehealth.

HRSA has also been active in the COVID-19 pandemic response, awarding billions of dollars to health centers to administer COVID-19 tests and reimbursing over \$18 billion for testing and treatment provided to uninsured individuals.

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.