

CDC Coalition

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Submitted on behalf of the CDC Coalition

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

The CDC Coalition is a nonpartisan coalition of organizations committed to strengthening our nation's prevention programs. We represent millions of public health workers, clinicians, researchers, educators and citizens served by CDC programs. We believe Congress should support CDC as an agency, not just its individual programs. We urge a funding level of **at least \$11 billion for CDC's programs in FY 2023** to help ensure the agency has adequate resources for its many important programs to improve the public's health. We appreciate the increases provided for some CDC programs in FY 2022 and we urge Congress to continue efforts to build upon these investments and increase funding to strengthen all of CDC's programs.

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. CDC serves as the lead agency for bioterrorism and public health emergency preparedness and response programs and must receive sustained support for these critical 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 in the face of 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.

We thank you for your support for important public health infrastructure programs including the Public Health Infrastructure and Capacity program which will provide flexible funding to strengthen core public health infrastructure and capacity needs at all levels of government, the Public Health Workforce and Career Development program to ensure the nation has a strong and well-trained workforce and Public Health Data Modernization Initiative is helping to build a world-class and modern data infrastructure system to ensure all systems can communicate and share data seamlessly with one another to adequately respond to the next public health emergency.

Injuries are the leading causes of death for people ages 1-45. Unintentional and violence-related injuries, such as older adult falls, firearm injury, child maltreatment and sexual violence, account for nearly 27 million emergency department visits each year. CDC reports that in 2019, the total economic cost of both fatal and nonfatal injuries totaled \$4.2 trillion. In 2021, drug overdoses killed more than 100,000 individuals nationwide. CDC provides states with resources for opioid and other drug overdose prevention programs and to ensure that health providers to have

information to improve opioid prescribing and prevent addiction and abuse. In 2022, there were 45,222 firearm-related fatalities in the U.S. We thank Congress for providing CDC with dedicated funding for firearm morbidity and mortality prevention research and strongly urge you to increase funding in FY 2023 to \$35 million at CDC. The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control must be adequately funded to conduct research, prevent injuries, address the nation's drug overdose epidemic and help save lives.

In 2020, 696,962 people in the U.S. died from heart disease, the nation's number one cause of death. More males than females died of heart disease in 2020, while more females than males died of stroke that year. Stroke is the fifth leading cause of death and is a leading cause of disability. In 2020, 160,264 people died of stroke, accounting for about one of every 19 deaths. Annually, heart disease and stroke cost the U.S. an estimated \$378 billion in health care and lost productivity. CDC's Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program; WISEWOMAN; Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity; and Million Hearts improve cardiovascular health and we urge you to provide adequate funding for these important lifesaving programs.

More than 1.9 million new cancer cases and over 609,000 deaths from cancer are expected in 2022. The amount spent on cancer related healthcare is expected to grow from \$183 billion in 2015 to \$246 billion in 2030 - an increase of 34%. CDC funds all 50 states, DC, 7 tribes and tribal organizations and 7 U.S. territories and Pacific Island jurisdictions to develop comprehensive cancer control plans. The National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program helps millions of low-income, uninsured and medically underserved women access lifesaving breast and cervical cancer screenings and provides a gateway to treatment and the Colorectal Cancer Control Program improves screening rates among targeted, low-income populations aged 50 –75 years.

Cigarette smoking causes more than 480,000 deaths each year. CDC's Office of Smoking and Health funds important programs and education campaigns such as the Tips From Former Smokers campaign which has already helped more than one million individuals quit smoking and millions more to make a serious quit attempt. Congress must continue to support these and other programs to reduce the enormous health and economic costs of tobacco use in the U.S.

Of the more than 37 million Americans living with diabetes, more than 8.5 million cases are undiagnosed. Diabetes is the leading cause of kidney failure, nontraumatic lower-limb amputations, and new cases of blindness among adults in the U.S. and the total direct and indirect costs associated with diabetes were \$327 billion in 2017. We urge you to provide adequate resources for CDC's Division of Diabetes Translation and the National Diabetes Prevention Program which fund critical diabetes prevention, surveillance and control programs.

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 1.2 million Americans are living with HIV with more than 13% undiagnosed. Prevention of HIV transmission is the best defense against the AIDS epidemic. Sexually transmitted diseases continue to be a significant public health problem in the U.S. Nearly 26 million new infections occurred in 2018. STDs, including HIV, cost the U.S. healthcare system almost \$16 billion annually in direct lifetime medical costs.

The National Center for Health Statistics collects data on chronic disease prevalence, health disparities, emergency room use, teen pregnancy, infant mortality and causes of death. The health data collected through the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Youth Tobacco Survey, National Vital Statistics System, and National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey must be adequately funded.

CDC's REACH program helps communities address serious disparities in infant mortality, breast and cervical cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, HIV/AIDS and immunizations by supporting community-based interventions and we urge the committee to provide continued funding for these important activities.

We thank the committee for its investment in the Social Determinants of Health program and urge you to increase funding for the program to ensure that public health departments, academic institutions and nonprofit organizations are supported to address the SDOH that contribute to high health care costs and preventable inequities in health outcomes.

CDC oversees immunization programs for children, adolescents and adults, and is a global partner in the ongoing effort to eradicate polio worldwide. Childhood immunizations provide one of the best returns on investment of any public health program. For every dollar spent on childhood vaccines to prevent thirteen diseases, more than \$10 is saved in direct and indirect costs. Over the past 20 years, CDC estimates childhood immunizations have prevented 732,000 deaths and 322 million illnesses. We urge you to provide adequate funding for the Section 317 Immunization program and other efforts to prevent vaccine-preventable disease.

Birth defects affect one in 33 babies and are a leading cause of infant death in the U.S. Children with birth defects that survive often experience lifelong physical and mental disabilities. Approximately one in six U.S. children is living with at least one developmental disability and one in four adults live with a disability. The National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities conducts programs to prevent birth defects and developmental disabilities and promote the health of people living with disabilities and blood disorders.

CDC's National Center for Environmental Health funds programs to control asthma, protect from threats associated with climate change and reduce, monitor and track exposure to lead and other environmental health hazards. Increased funding for all NCEH programs is critical to protecting the public from environmental health hazards and reducing illness, disease, injury and even death.

To meet the many ongoing public health challenges facing the nation, including those outlined above, we urge you to provide at least **\$11 billion for CDC's programs in FY 2023.**