



AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

For science. For action. For health.

July 27, 2021

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Public Health Association, a diverse community of public health professionals that champions the health of all people and communities, I write in strong support of the FY 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill contained in the FY 2022 minibus appropriations bill (H.R. 4502) that will be considered this week in the House. We urge you to support the important increased funding for public health agencies and programs included in the bill.

The FY 2022 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill includes a \$22.9 billion increase for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, including a nearly \$2.7 billion increase for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and a \$1.6 billion increase for the Health Resources and Services Administration.

The bill would provide important new funding to strengthen the nation's public health system including \$1 billion in new flexible funding for state and local public health infrastructure needs and \$106 million for strengthening the public health workforce. Additionally, the bill would provide increased funding for other critical CDC programs including \$110 million for the agency's Climate and Health program, \$25 million for gun violence prevention research, \$153 million for the agency's cross-cutting Social Determinants of Health program, \$664 million for opioid overdose prevention and surveillance activities and \$150 million for the agency's data modernization efforts. The legislation would also boost funding for tobacco control efforts, HIV prevention activities, immunizations, occupational safety and health research, chronic disease prevention efforts, global health disease prevention and other important public health and prevention programs.

Additionally, the bill would provide increases for several HRSA programs that support efforts to improve health outcomes for the nation's most geographically, economically and medically vulnerable populations. The bill provides \$1.8 billion for the Health Centers program, including increased funding for community health centers and school-based health centers, \$1.6 billion for HRSA's Bureau of Health Professions programs to support health workforce development and \$2.7 billion for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program which provides critical services to individuals living with HIV. The bill also includes increases for maternal and child health programs that support initiatives that promote optimal health, reduce infant mortality, minimize disparities, prevent chronic conditions and improve access to quality health care for vulnerable women, infants and children.

The increases provided for important public health programs will help strengthen the nation's public health infrastructure at all levels as we continue to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and the many other critical public health challenges we face as a nation.

We urge your support for the funding contained in the FY 2022 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill and we look forward to continuing to work with the House and Senate to ensure the highest possible funding levels for CDC, HRSA and other important public health programs as Congress works to finalize the FY 2022 appropriations process. We strongly urge Congress to finalize the FY 2022 appropriations process in a timely manner and to avoid long-term continuing resolutions which threaten the significant increases for critical public health programs included in the House bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Georges C. Benjamin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "G".

Georges C. Benjamin, MD
Executive Director