

April 27, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chair Murray, Ranking Member Blunt, Chair DeLauro, and Ranking Member Cole:

Thank you for your leadership and support for our nation's public health workforce and systems during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. As we continue to respond to COVID-19 and prepare to address the next emerging public health threat, the undersigned organizations representing patients, public health professionals, health information technology developers, health care providers, researchers, and scientists urge you to appropriate at least \$250 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 towards the public health Data Modernization Initiative (DMI) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The DMI is a commitment to building the world-class data workforce and data systems that are ready for the next public health emergency. We are grateful to Congress for providing nearly \$1 billion to date for CDC's DMI through annual and supplemental appropriations. Now, we need robust, sustained, annual funding to complete the foundational investment of \$1 billion and to ensure we are investing in public health systems and infrastructure, including at state and local health departments, that will keep pace with evolving technology.

The DMI is helping to create a standards-based interoperable public health infrastructure, ensuring all systems can communicate and share data seamlessly with one another; advancing standards so that information can be stored and shared across systems; and facilitating complete and timely reporting so that our public health system has essential data on race, ethnicity, pregnancy status, treatments, and co-morbidities that are critical for achieving equity in public health response.

We urge you to continue to prioritize public health data modernization at CDC by allocating at least \$250 million in FY 2022. Rapidly evolving technology demands that public health keep pace with advancements by continually upgrading data systems and ensuring cybersecurity. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown starkly that public health has fallen behind over the past decade because of eroding infrastructure in data science and information technology. We cannot allow our foundational investments to become obsolete—we must build upon them and provide adequate sustained resources for public health to develop, implement, and maintain the data systems and technologies needed to train the next generation of data scientists. A robust, sustained commitment to transform today's public health surveillance will ultimately improve America's health and security.

Thank you for your consideration of these important issues. If you have questions, please contact Meghan Riley at mriley@dc-crd.com.

Sincerely,

Aledade, Inc.

American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association for Dental Research

American Association on Health and Disability

American Brain Coalition

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Clinical Laboratory Association

American College of Clinical Pharmacy

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

American Epilepsy Society

American Health Innovation Management Association (AHIMA)

American Heart Association

American Lung Association

American Medical Association

American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)

American Psychological Association

American Public Health Association

American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology

American Society for Microbiology

American Society for Nutrition

American Society for Reproductive Medicine

American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology

American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene

American Sociological Association

Association for Prevention Teaching and Research

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology

Association of Clinicians for the Underserved

Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs

Association of Population Centers

Association of Public Health Laboratories

Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Big Cities Health Coalition

Care Analytics Group, LLC

Caring Ambassadors Program, Inc

Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy University of Minnesota

Cerner Corporation

Community Solutions

Connected Health Initiative

Consortium for State and Regional Interoperability

Consortium of Social Science Associations

Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS)

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Data Coalition Initiative
Entomological Society of American
FND Hope
Health Innovation Alliance
Healthcare Leadership Council
Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)
HIV Medicine Association
HLN Consulting, LLC
Hope for HIE
Hydrocephalus Association
Infectious Diseases Society of America
International Essential Tremor Foundation
Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research
ISF, Inc.
Lakeshore Foundation
Leidos
March of Dimes
MQ Foundation
NASTAD
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS)
National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials
National Birth Equity Collaborative
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Rural Health Association
National Safety Council
Parkinson's Foundation
Patrick Risha CTE Awareness Foundation
Population Association of America
Premier, Inc.
Prevent Blindness
Public Health Foundation
Public Health Informatics Institute a Program of the Task Force for Global Health
Research!America
Resolve to Save Lives
Ruvos
SAS
Schizophrenia & Psychosis Action Alliance
Seattle Indian Health Board
Spina Bifida Association
The American Neurological Association
The Bee Foundation
The Black Women's Health Imperative

The College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME)
The Gerontological Society of America
The Immunization Partnership
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
Trust for America's Health
University of Washington
University of Washington Center for the Study of Demography and Ecology
University of Washington, College of Education
Washington State Department of Health
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease