

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

March 17, 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](mailto:eholubowich@dc-crd.com) or 202.484.1100.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association  
 Academy of General Dentistry  
 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 Periodontology  
 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 of Immunologists  
 American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy  
 American Association of People with Disabilities  
 American Association of Public Health Dentistry  
 American Association for Respiratory Care  
 American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases  
 The American Brain Coalition  
 American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

Joined by,

Richard H. Carmona, MD, MPH, FACS  
 17th Surgeon General of the United States

Steven K. Galson, MD, MPH  
 Rear Admiral, USPHS (Ret.)  
 Acting U.S. Surgeon General 2007-2009

C. Everett Koop, MD, ScD  
 13<sup>th</sup> United States Surgeon General

Kenneth Moritsugu, MD, MPH, FACPM,  
 Rear Admiral, USPHS (Ret)  
 Acting U.S. Surgeon General 2006-2007

David Satcher, MD, PhD  
 16th Surgeon General of the United States

American College of Cardiology  
American College of Clinical Pharmacy  
American College of Neuropsychopharmacology  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American College of Rheumatology  
American Dance Therapy Association  
American Dental Association  
American Dental Education Association  
American Diabetes Association  
American Dietetic Association  
American Epilepsy Society  
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention/SPAN USA  
American Gastroenterological Association  
The American Geriatrics Society  
American Heart Association  
American Hospital Association  
American Institute for Medical and Biomedical Engineering  
American Lung Association  
American Medical Student Association  
American Medical Women's Association  
American Mental Health Counselors Association  
American Nephrology Nurses Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Organization of Nurse Executives  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Pediatric Society  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Physiological Society  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Radiologic and Imaging Nursing  
American Social Health Association  
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 of Hematology  
American Society for Microbiology  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Society for Nutrition  
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology  
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses  
American Society for Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
American Society of Transplantation  
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 Independent Research Institutes  
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 and Territorial Dental Directors  
Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Association of Women's Health  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America  
A.T. Still University of Health Sciences-Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
Biophysical Society  
Boys Town National Research Hospital  
Breast Cancer Network of Strength  
CADASIL  
California Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors  
California Foundation for the Advancement of Addiction Professionals  
Campaign for Public Health  
CARES Foundation, Inc.  
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 Funding  
Coalition for Health Services Research

Coalition of Heritable Disorders of Connective Tissue  
Coalition for the Life Sciences  
Coalition to Protect Research  
Coalition of Urban Serving Universities  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service  
Community Health Councils, Inc.  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Cooley's Anemia Foundation  
COPD Foundation  
Corporation for Supportive Housing  
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  
Directors of Health Promotion and Education  
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation  
Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine  
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  
Genetic Alliance  
Genetic Alliance BioBank  
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  
Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences College of Osteopathic Medicine  
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 for Sport and Physical Education  
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors  
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators  
National Association of State Mental Health Program 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 Coalition of STD Directors  
National Council on Diversity in the Health Professions  
The National Council of State Boards of Nursing  
National Disability Rights Network  
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association  
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 LGBT Cancer Network  
National Marfan Foundation  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Nursing Centers Consortium  
National Osteoporosis Foundation  
National Primate Research Centers  
National Psoriasis Foundation  
National Rural Health Association  
National Spinal Cord Injury Association  
NBIA Disorders Association  
The NephCure Foundation  
New York Stem Cell Foundation  
North American Primary Care Research Group  
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs

Oncology Nursing Society  
Ovarian Cancer National Alliance  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN)  
Partnership for Prevention  
PKD Foundation  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Population Association of America  
Prevent Blindness America  
Public Health Institute  
Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
PXE International  
Research!America  
Scleroderma Foundation  
Service Employees International Union  
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States  
Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation  
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 of Hospital Medicine  
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  
Southwest Women's Law Center  
Special Olympics International  
State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association  
Treatment Action Group  
Trust for America's Health  
United Spinal Association  
Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS Prevention Services  
U.S. Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association  
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease  
YMCA of the USA