

March 4, 2013

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Budget

The Honorable Jeff Sessions  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Budget

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Chairman  
House Committee on Budget

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Budget

Our health is inextricably linked to our mission readiness on the battlefield, our productivity on the job, our educational attainment in the classroom, and our competitiveness around the world. Federal agencies and programs have a unique role in enhancing Americans' health and well-being. Investment in these areas has and will continue to show returns on taxpayer dollars. Given the critical nature of these programs, the undersigned 430 national, state, and local organizations recommend funding of \$65 billion for discretionary public health and health research programs (Function 550) in the FY 2014 budget resolution. In developing our recommendation, we strived to balance the need to reduce the deficit without compromising Americans' immediate and long-term health needs.

Public health is the science and art of preventing disease, promoting physical and behavioral wellness, supporting personal responsibility, and prolonging life in communities where people live, work, and learn. The federal health agencies comprising the public health continuum—National Institutes of Health, Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Health Resources and Services Administration, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and Indian Health Service, among others—have benefited from longstanding, bipartisan support of Congress and administrations, and Americans' lives are better because of it.

Our nation's health has already borne responsibility for deficit reduction through cuts in the Fiscal Year 2011 Continuing Resolution, the bipartisan Budget Control Act discretionary caps, the bipartisan American Taxpayer Relief Act, and most recently sequestration. Public health and health research made up 1.6 percent of the budget in FY 2012—a small and shrinking share of all federal spending. Public health and health research are not the root cause of our fiscal crisis, and cutting them further will not bring the budget into balance. On the contrary, with greater investment, these programs are an integral part of the solution. For example:

- Spending \$10 per person, per year in proven, community-based programs that help people take personal responsibility for their health—increase their physical activity, eat better, and avoid smoking and other tobacco use—could save the country more than \$16 billion annually within five years. **This is a return of \$5.60 for every \$1 invested.**
- Vaccines are one of the most cost-effective public health interventions. For infants who receive the seven vaccines given as part of the routine childhood immunization schedule, society **saves \$9.9 million in direct health care costs**; 33,000 lives are saved; and 14 million cases of disease are prevented.
- The nation's more than **1,200 community health centers** provide 22 million patients access to high-quality affordable primary and preventive care, **saving \$1,263 per person**. Total patient care costs at health centers are 24-50 percent lower than those served in other settings, **producing up to \$24 billion in annual health system savings**. This includes **\$6.7 billion in savings for the federal share of the Medicaid program**, and is driven by lower utilization of costly specialty care, emergency departments, and hospitals.

- As many as 5.4 million Americans have Alzheimer’s disease. The costs to Medicare and Medicaid and out-of-pocket expenses of treating the disease over the next 40 years will increase five-fold, from \$172 billion annually to \$1.08 trillion. **The projected benefits of drugs capable of delaying the onset of Alzheimer’s disease by 5-years would amount to \$3.97 trillion per year.** Even a therapy that only delayed the onset of Alzheimer’s for one year would yield a benefit of \$1.2 trillion annually.

Evidence abounds—from the Department of Defense to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce—that healthy Americans are stronger on the battlefield, have higher academic achievement, and are more productive in school and on the job. Healthy Americans drive our economic engine, and ultimately cost our nation less in health care spending. Our Function 550 request of \$65 billion—consistent with our FY 2012 funding request—would allow us to seize new opportunities to improve our nation’s health while protecting its fiscal health. This requested funding level would bolster:

- **Biomedical, Behavioral, and Health Services Research:** Enhancing scientific discovery; saving lives, revitalizing local economies, and preserving our nation’s long-term competitiveness.
- **Food and Drug Safety:** Assuring the safety of our nation’s food and the safety and efficacy of drugs, biologics, vaccines, and medical devices.
- **Disease Prevention and Health Promotion:** Strengthening capacity in states and communities to prevent and treat costly chronic and infectious diseases; protecting Americans in the event of public health threats; protecting the public from environmental hazards, and ensuring those with disabilities reach their highest potential in function and health.
- **Health Professions Education:** Assuring that there is a robust workforce of doctors, nurses, dentists, physician assistants, public health providers and other health professionals to care for Americans in need.
- **Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services:** Assuring access to vital services for hundreds of thousands in need of care, including veterans and service members suffering with the invisible wounds of war.
- **Health Care for American Indians and Alaska Natives:** Reversing current health disparities for a population that now suffers a life expectancy that is four years lower than the general population.
- **Safety Net Health Care Services:** Assuring access to quality, basic health care for medically underserved populations—children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, the uninsured, and rural populations.

Please note that our recommendation does not include and is over and above funding provided through emergency requests, user fees, and mandatory transfers.

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.

*This letter was organized on behalf of the community by the Coalition for Health Funding—the oldest and largest nonprofit alliance working to strengthen public health in the best interest of all Americans. The Coalition’s 80 member organizations together represent more than 100 million patients, health care providers, public health professionals, and scientists. For more information, please visit [www.publichealthfunding.org](http://www.publichealthfunding.org) or follow on Twitter @healthfunding.*

Academic Pediatric Association  
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
Academy of Radiology Research  
AcademyHealth  
ActionAIDS, Philadelphia, PA  
Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research  
ADAP Advocacy Association  
Adult Congenital Heart Association  
Advocates for Better Children's Diets  
AHEPA Cooley's Anemia Foundation  
AIDS Action Baltimore  
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth and Families  
AIDS Community Research Initiative of America  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
AIDS Project Los Angeles  
AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin  
AIDS United  
AIDS/HIV Services Group, Charlottesville, VA  
Alaska Public Health Association  
Alliance for a Stronger FDA  
Alliance for Aging Research  
Alliance for Integrative Health Care  
Alpha-1 Association  
Alpha-1 Foundation  
Alstrom Syndrome International  
Alzheimer's Association  
Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology  
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of HIV Medicine  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology  
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Periodontology  
American Academy of Physician Assistants  
American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance  
American Art Therapy Association  
American Association for Cancer Research  
American Association for Dental Research  
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry  
American Association for Health Education  
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

American Association for Respiratory Care  
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases  
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 of Immunologists  
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons  
American Association of Public Health Dentistry  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Clinical Pharmacy  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American College of Sports Medicine  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American Counseling Association  
American Dance Therapy Association  
American Dental Association  
American Dental Education Association  
American Dental Hygienists' Association  
American Diabetes Association  
American Epilepsy Society  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association  
American Institute for Cancer Research  
American Lung Association  
American Medical Informatics Association  
American Medical Student Association  
American Medical Women's Association  
American Mental Health Counselors Association  
American Music Therapy Association  
American Nephrology Nurses Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Organization of Nurse Executives  
American Orthopsychiatric Association  
American Partnership for Eosinophilic Disorders  
American Pediatric Society  
American Physiological Society  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Psychotherapy Association

American Public Health Association  
American Sexual Health Association  
American Sleep Apnea Association  
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science  
American Society for Clinical Pathology  
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
American Society for Microbiology  
American Society for Nutrition  
American Society for Pain Management Nursing  
American Society for Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Society of Neurorehabilitation (ASNR)  
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology  
American Society of Transplantation  
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene  
American Society on Aging  
American Sociological Association  
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
American Trauma Society  
amfAR - The Foundation for AIDS Research  
Anxiety and Depression Association of America  
Arizona Public Health Association  
Arkansas Public Health Association  
Arthritis Foundation  
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Asian Human Services  
Association for Clinical Research Training  
Association for Patient-Oriented Research  
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research  
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)  
Association for Psychological Science  
Association for Radiologic and Imaging Nursing  
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology  
Association of Academic Health Centers  
Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries  
Association of Accredited Public Health Programs  
Association of American Cancer Institutes  
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges  
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved  
Association of Departments of Family Medicine  
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors

Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs  
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools  
Association of Montana Public Health Officials  
Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO)  
Association of Public Health Laboratories  
Association of Public Health Nurses  
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry  
Association of Schools of Public Health  
Association of State & Territorial Health Officials  
Association of State & Territorial Public Health Nutrition Directors  
Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
AVAC: Global Advocacy for HIV Prevention  
Baltimore Black Pride, Inc.  
Berkeley Faculty Association University of California  
Biophysical Society  
Boston Public Health Commission  
CADASIL - Together We Have Hope  
California Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors  
California Center for Public Health Advocacy  
Campaign for Public Health Foundation  
Cancer Legal Resource Center  
Cascade AIDS Project  
C-Change  
Center for Behavioral Epidemiology and Community Health  
Center for Communications, Health & the Environment  
Center for Health and Learning  
Center for Science in the Public Interest  
Center on Halsted  
ChangeLab Solutions  
Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science  
Chicago House and Social Service Agency  
Children's Hospital Association  
Children's Environmental Health Network  
Children's Mental Health Network  
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation  
Clinical Research Forum  
Clinical Social Work Association  
Coalition for Health Funding  
Coalition for Imaging and Bioengineering Research  
Coalition for National Health Education Organizations

Coalition for the Advancement of Health Through Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (CAHT-BSSR)  
Coalition for the Life Sciences  
Coalition of Heritable Disorders of Connective Tissue  
Coalition of National Health Education Organizations  
Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning  
Coalition to Promote Research (CPR)  
College of American Pathologists  
Columbia University Medical Center  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service  
Community Access National Network  
Community Servings, Inc.  
Community-Campus Partnerships for Health  
Complementary and Alternative Medical Association of Vermont  
Connecticut Public Health Association  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
COPD Foundation  
Corporation for Supportive Housing  
Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders  
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists  
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Daughters of Penelope  
Defeat Diabetes Foundation  
Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families  
Delaware Public Health Association  
Dental Hygienists' Association of the State of New York  
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance  
Dialysis Patient Citizens  
Digestive Disease National Coalition  
Directors of Health Promotion and Education  
Disability Rights Legal Center  
Easter Seals  
Eastern Shore Healthy Communities  
Eat Smart, Move More South Carolina  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Emory Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, Emory University  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Eta Sigma Gamma  
Every Child By Two – Carter/Bumpers Champions for Immunization  
Family Voices  
FasterCures  
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology  
Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences

Fight Colorectal Cancer  
Food Allergy Research and Education  
Friends of AHRQ  
Friends of Indian Health  
Friends of NCHS  
Friends of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research  
Futures Without Violence  
GBS/CIDP Foundation International  
Genetic Alliance  
Georgia AIDS Coalition  
Georgia Public Health Association  
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.  
Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition  
Health Professions Network  
HealthHIV  
Healthy Teen Network  
Hepatitis Foundation International  
Hispanic Dental Association (HDA)  
HIV ACCESS  
HIV Dental Alliance  
HIV Medicine Association  
HIV Prevention Justice Alliance  
Housing Works  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium  
International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders  
International Myeloma Foundation  
International Nurses Society on Addictions  
Interstitial Cystitis Association  
Intracranial Hypertension Research Foundation  
Iowa Public Health Association  
Jeffrey Modell Foundation  
Joint Advocacy Coalition of ACRT, APOR, CRF, & SCTS  
Kids That Care Pediatric & Cancer Fund  
Lakeshore Foundation  
Lifelong AIDS Alliance  
Lupus Foundation of America  
Lupus Research Institute  
Maine Public Health Association  
Malecare  
March of Dimes Foundation  
Massachusetts Public Health Association  
Medical Library Association  
Meharry Medical College



Mental Health America  
Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation  
Michigan Public Health Association  
Minnesota AIDS Project  
Mississippi Public Health Association  
Missouri Association of Local Public Health Agencies  
Missouri Public Health Association  
Montana Public Health Association  
Morehouse School of Medicine  
NAADAC, The Association for Addiction Professionals  
National AHEC Organization  
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research  
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Alopecia Areata Foundation  
National Area Health Education Center Organization  
National Assembly on School-Based Health Care  
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health  
National Association for Geriatric Education  
National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems  
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors  
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists  
National Association of Community Health Centers  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors  
National Association of Geriatric Education Centers  
National Association of Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools  
National Association of Mental Health Planning & Advisory Councils  
National Association of Social Workers  
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 Black Nurses Association  
National Business Group on Health  
National Center for Healthy Housing  
National Coalition of STD Directors  
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare  
National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Disability Rights Network  
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association  
National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health  
National Gaucher Foundation

National Health Care for the Homeless Council  
National Indian Health Board  
National Kidney Foundation  
National League for Nursing  
National LGBT Cancer Network  
National Lung Cancer Partnership  
National Marfan Foundation  
National Minority AIDS Council  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Native American AIDS Prevention Center  
National Network of Public Health Institutes  
National Nursing Centers Consortium  
National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)  
National Pediatric AIDS Network  
National Psoriasis Foundation  
National Respite Coalition  
National Rural Health Association  
National Student Nurses' Association, Inc.  
National Tay-Sachs & Allied Diseases Association, Inc.  
National Violence Prevention Network  
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable  
National Women's Health Network  
New Mexico Public Health Association  
New York State Public Health Association  
New York Stem Cell Foundation  
North American Primary Care Research Group  
North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition  
North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition  
Ohio Public Health Association  
Okaloosa AIDS Support and Informational Services, Inc.  
Oklahoma Public Health Association  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Open Door Clinic  
Oral Health America  
Oregon Health & Science University  
Oregon Public Health Association  
Oregon Public Health Institute  
Palo Alto Medical Foundation Research Institute  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network  
Pediatric Stroke Network, Inc.  
Penn Medicine  
Physician Assistant Education Association  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers

Prevent Blindness America  
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association  
Project DOCC - Delivery of Chronic Care  
Project Inform  
Prostate Cancer Foundation  
Public Health Association of Nebraska  
Public Health Institute  
Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
PXE International  
Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition  
Red Circle Wellness  
Regional Asthma Management & Prevention  
Research!America  
Rhode Island Public Health Association  
RiverStone Health  
RTI International  
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition  
Safe States Alliance  
San Francisco AIDS Foundation  
Schizophrenia and Related Disorders Alliance of America  
Scleroderma Foundation  
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS)  
Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation  
Sleep Research Society  
Society for Clinical and Translational Science  
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America  
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
Society for Medical Decision Making  
Society for Neuroscience  
Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Society for Public Health Education  
Society for Women's Health Research  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Heart Attack Prevention and Eradication  
Society of Interventional Radiology  
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine  
South Dakota Public Health Association  
Southern AIDS Coalition  
Southern California Public Health Association  
Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative  
Special Olympics, Inc.  
Test Positive Aware Network  
Texas Health Institute

The AIDS Institute  
The American Brain Coalition  
The American Society for Cell Biology  
The Arc of the United States  
The Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative  
The Coalition of Urban Serving Universities  
The Endocrine Society  
The Gerontological Society of America  
The LGBT Cancer Project - Out With Cancer  
The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy  
The National Council of State Boards of Nursing  
The NephCure Foundation  
The SPARK Programs  
The TMJ Association, Ltd  
Trauma Center Association of America  
Treatment Action Group  
Treatment Communities of America  
Trust for America's Health  
Turner Syndrome Foundation, Inc.  
Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing & Allied Health.  
U.S. Hereditary Angioedema Association  
Utah Public Health Association  
Vermont Public Health Association  
VillageCare  
Voices for America's Children  
Washington State Public Health Association  
Wisconsin Public Health Association  
Women African Affairs  
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease  
YMCA of the USA  
Young People's Healthy Heart Program at Mercy Hospital