

April 27, 2022

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 ongoing support for our nation's public health workforce and data systems during the COVID-19 pandemic. As we continue to respond to COVID-19 and prepare for the next public health threat, the undersigned organizations urge you to appropriate at least \$250 million for the Data Modernization Initiative (DMI) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Funding for DMI will also make possible the critical work of the CDC's newly established Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics (CFA). A \$50 million appropriation for CFA in FY 2023 will help to fund the center to facilitate the use of data, modeling, and analytics to improve pandemic preparedness and response.

The DMI—which began before the COVID-19 pandemic—is a commitment to build the world-class data infrastructure and workforce 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 ensure we can build and maintain modern public health systems and infrastructure, including at state, territorial, local, and Tribal health departments. While these annual appropriations are essential, the need for investment in modern public health data systems that keep pace with evolving technology is far greater and will require a sustained federal investment, including more than \$7.84 billion over the next five years.

The DMI is creating 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, 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 2023 for the DMI and at least \$50 million for the CFA. 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, Oral, and Craniofacial 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 (ACOG)
American Epilepsy Society
American Health Information Management Association
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Mosquito Control Association
American Public Health Association
American Psychological Association
American Statistical Association
American Society for Nutrition
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
Associated Executives of Mosquito Control Work in NJ
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Population Centers
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists
Big Cities Health Coalition
Black Women's Health Imperative
Care Analytics Group, LLC
Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy, University of Minnesota
Cerner
Civitas Networks for Health

College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME)
Community Solutions
Connected Health Initiative
Consortium for State and Regional Interoperability
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council of State and Territorial Health Officials
Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics
CURE Epilepsy
Data Coalition Initiative
DEE-P Connections
Dogtown Media
Dravet Syndrome Foundation
Dup15q Alliance
Electronic Health Record Association
Entomological Society of America
Epilepsy Foundation
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative, Inc.
Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)
Healthcare Leadership Council
Healthcare Ready
Helix Op Co, LLC
HLN Consulting, LLC
Hope for HIE
International Essential Tremor Foundation
Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)
ISF, Inc.
Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security
Lakeshore Foundation
Leidos
Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome (LGS) Foundation
Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California
NASTAD
National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS)
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials
National Association of Vector-Borne Disease Control Officials
National Birth Equity Collaborative
National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)
National Network of Public Health Institutes
New York State Public Health Association
Northeast Mosquito Control Association
Northeast Regional Center for Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases
Population Association of America

Prevent Blindness
Public Health Foundation
Public Health Institute
Rare Epilepsy Network (REN)
Research!America
Resolve to Save Lives
Ruvos
SAP America, Inc.
Safe States Alliance
Seattle Indian Health Board
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Vector Ecology
Southeastern Center of Excellence in Vector Borne Diseases
Spina Bifida Association
SYNGAP1 Foundation
The American College of Preventive Medicine
The Bee Foundation
The Gerontological Society of America
The Task Force for Global Health
Trinity Health
Trust for America's Health
TSC Alliance
University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute
Washington State Department of Health
We Must Count Coalition