

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](mailto: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