March 4, 2013

The Honorable Patty Murray Chairman Senate Committee on Budget

The Honorable Paul Ryan Chairman House Committee on Budget The Honorable Jeff Sessions Ranking Member Senate 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 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 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