**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, Joined by,

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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

13th United States Surgeon General

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16th Surgeon General of the United States

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

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