

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 22, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education,  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education,  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Capito and Ranking Member Baldwin,

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we thank you for your strong commitment to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and to the nation's public health security. **We respectfully request that you protect the mission of CDC by providing robust funding at or near the level of \$9.683 billion for the agency.**

In recent months, President Trump and Secretary Kennedy have taken a hatchet to our public health agencies by massively reducing or eliminating programs historically authorized and appropriated by Congress on a bipartisan basis. During the first several months of 2025, the Trump administration fired thousands of dedicated public health professionals who have devoted their life's work to the health, safety, and security of our constituents. These mass terminations not only destabilize our country's public health infrastructure, but they also put our economy at risk when people get sick, and no one is there to respond.

The President's FY26 Discretionary Budget Request proposes drastic reductions to CDC's budget of nearly 44 percent, despite rising rates of measles, STIs, maternal deaths, and chronic diseases.<sup>1</sup> The elimination of the CDC's chronic disease prevention office also contradicts the Administration's stated goal of addressing the chronic disease epidemic in our country.<sup>2</sup> These cuts will not make American's healthy. The CDC must remain the world's preeminent public health agency and to do so, the CDC must have the tools it needs to continue its work.

We support robust funding for CDC's response efforts to domestic health threats, much of which flows through state and local public health agencies. Our public health departments use this funding to provide access to vaccines, STI testing, disease outbreak tracing, and general improvements to health care access. Continued investment in the CDC will have a direct,

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<sup>1</sup> *The President's FY 2026 Discretionary Budget Request*, The White House (May 2, 2025) at 11, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fiscal-Year-2026-Discretionary-Budget-Request.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Apoorva Mandavilli and Roni Caryn Rabin. *Trump's Budget Cuts Funding for Chronic Disease Prevention*, The New York Times (May 2, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/02/health/trump-budget-cdc-chronic-conditions.html>.

positive effect on the economy, since healthy people means a healthy economy. Additionally, the return on investment for public health funding results in savings over the long-term.<sup>3</sup>

Without funding appropriated to and administered by the CDC, many of our state and local public health agencies would be critically underfunded or worse, nonexistent. We request that the committee support the public health workforce and public health departments by fully funding Public Health and Preparedness programs, including programs that prevent HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STI and TB, as well as the Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion program and the Public Health Social Services Emergency Fund (PHSSF). In particular, the National Center on Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion must be fully funded, unlike the President's FY26 Budget Request, to allow CDC to respond to the chronic disease crisis.

Another longstanding mission of the CDC is its Global Health Security programs, and we are concerned by the Trump administration's efforts to prevent CDC researchers and officials from working directly with non-government organizations and global public health organizations. More than 70 percent of the world remains underprepared to respond to a public health emergency, and with our globally-connected society, disease outbreaks around the world pose threats to the U.S.<sup>4</sup> We urge continued funding for global health programs at the CDC, so the agency can continue to work with other countries to build capacities in surveillance, disease detection, and outbreak response to stop deadly diseases at their source.

We also encourage funding for Public Health Data Modernization efforts. Enhanced data systems enable the CDC to better track health trends, identify emerging threats, and allocate resources efficiently. Policymakers and researchers rely on precise data to make informed decisions and provide sound health guidance to the public. Modernized data infrastructure supports interoperability between agencies, facilitating collaboration and improving the overall quality of health information. The CDC should have the necessary data authority to access the information required for effective decision-making, ensuring public health strategies are based on the most reliable data available. Investing in data modernization not only strengthens domestic health security but also enhances global health initiatives by enabling swift responses to international health challenges.

We also strongly support keeping *all* Centers at the CDC fully operational and funded, including the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). The NCIPC helps CDC address public health challenges like opioid use disorder, child abuse, drowning, falls in the elderly population, and domestic violence.<sup>5</sup> The NCIPC, which was eliminated in the President's FY26 Discretionary Budget Request, will make our country healthier and safer. Additionally, NIOSH benefits from the CDC's comprehensive public health infrastructure, facilitating collaboration and resource

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<sup>3</sup> JM McCullough, *The Return on Investment of Public Health System Spending*, AcademyHealth (Jun. 2018), [https://academyhealth.org/sites/default/files/roi\\_public\\_health\\_spending\\_june2018.pdf](https://academyhealth.org/sites/default/files/roi_public_health_spending_june2018.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Emily Anthes, *The World Is Unprepared for the Next Pandemic*, Report Says, The New York Times (Dec. 8, 2021), <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/08/health/covid-pandemic-preparedness.html>.

<sup>5</sup> Will Stone, *With CDC injury prevention team gutted, 'we will not know what is killing us'*, NPR (Apr. 21, 2025), <https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2025/04/21/nx-s1-5371519/cdc-hhs-injury-prevention-federal-layoffs>

sharing that enhances its research and intervention capabilities. Continued funding for NIOSH supports its mission to prevent work-related injuries and illnesses, ultimately contributing to a healthier, more productive workforce and reducing healthcare costs associated with occupational hazards.

The CDC is the cornerstone of public health in the United States and the world. In 2023, Congress, on a bipartisan basis, affirmed the importance of CDC by requiring its director to be confirmed by the Senate, which was a critical step to bolstering the public's trust in the CDC. By prioritizing funding for its essential programs, including non-communicable disease prevention, global health initiatives, data modernization, and workplace safety, Congress can ensure that the CDC will continue to protect and enhance the health and safety of all Americans.

Your support in maintaining and expanding these vital resources will empower the CDC to effectively address current and future health challenges. Thank you for considering this request, and for your commitment to advancing public health through robust funding support of the CDC.

Sincerely,



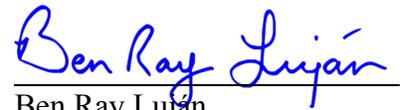
Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator



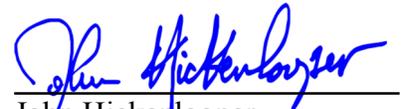
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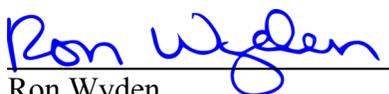
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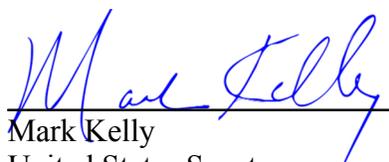
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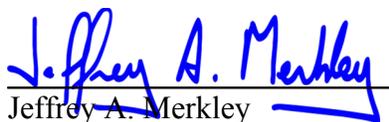
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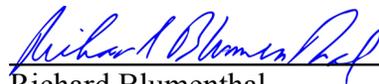
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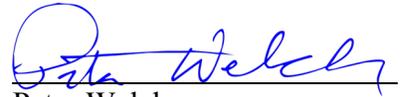
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