

April 27, 2021

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 leadership and support for our nation's public health workforce and systems during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. As we continue to respond to COVID-19 and prepare to address the next emerging public health threat, the undersigned organizations representing patients, public health professionals, health information technology developers, health care providers, researchers, and scientists urge you to appropriate at least \$250 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 towards the public health Data Modernization Initiative (DMI) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The DMI is a commitment to building the world-class data workforce and data systems 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 complete the foundational investment of \$1 billion and to ensure we are investing in public health systems and infrastructure, including at state and local health departments, that will keep pace with evolving technology.

The DMI is helping to create 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, pregnancy status, 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 2022. 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 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  
American Epilepsy Society  
American Health Innovation Management Association (AHIMA)  
American Heart Association  
American Lung Association  
American Medical Association  
American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology  
American Society for Microbiology  
American Society for Nutrition  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology  
American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene  
American Sociological Association  
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research  
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology  
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of Population Centers  
Association of Public Health Laboratories  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Big Cities Health Coalition  
Care Analytics Group, LLC  
Caring Ambassadors Program, Inc  
Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy University of Minnesota  
Cerner Corporation  
Community Solutions  
Connected Health Initiative  
Consortium for State and Regional Interoperability  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS)

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists  
Data Coalition Initiative  
Entomological Society of American  
FND Hope  
Health Innovation Alliance  
Healthcare Leadership Council  
Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)  
HIV Medicine Association  
HLN Consulting, LLC  
Hope for HIE  
Hydrocephalus Association  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
International Essential Tremor Foundation  
Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research  
ISF, Inc.  
Lakeshore Foundation  
Leidos  
March of Dimes  
MQ Foundation  
NASTAD  
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS)  
National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials  
National Birth Equity Collaborative  
National Coalition of STD Directors  
National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Network of Public Health Institutes  
National Rural Health Association  
National Safety Council  
Parkinson's Foundation  
Patrick Risha CTE Awareness Foundation  
Population Association of America  
Premier, Inc.  
Prevent Blindness  
Public Health Foundation  
Public Health Informatics Institute a Program of the Task Force for Global Health  
Research!America  
Resolve to Save Lives  
Ruvos  
SAS  
Schizophrenia & Psychosis Action Alliance  
Seattle Indian Health Board  
Spina Bifida Association  
The American Neurological Association  
The Bee Foundation  
The Black Women's Health Imperative

The College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME)  
The Gerontological Society of America  
The Immunization Partnership  
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research  
The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America  
Trust for America's Health  
University of Washington  
University of Washington Center for the Study of Demography and Ecology  
University of Washington, College of Education  
Washington State Department of Health  
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease