

December 6, 2021

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Leahy, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

We, the undersigned organizations, respectfully request that you include at least \$40 million for the Advanced Molecular Detection (AMD) program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the final Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), Education and Related Agencies bill, as proposed by the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor HHS Education. AMD has played a critical role in the response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, from enabling the United States to sequence SARS-CoV-2 within one week of its initial detection in this country, to sequencing tens of thousands of samples each week to track viral variants.

Sustained and reliable annual funding increases are needed to keep our investments in the AMD program up to date and continue the important collaborative work and training programs bolstered by supplemental funding. NGS technology continues to advance at an astounding pace and yet funding for the AMD **base** budget has remained flat since the program's inception in 2014. The current base funding level of \$30 million is not sufficient to meet increasing demands for the equipment, training, and expertise required to support state and local health departments with precision public health and expanded collaborations. Returning to this level post-pandemic also threatens the infrastructure that has been built over the past year that has strengthened the core program.

Emergency AMD funding through the American Rescue Plan Act has been instrumental as new variants threatened our progress against COVID-19 and will help build a public health workforce that is adept at applying genomic technologies and has access to up-to-date sequencing technology and the high-performance computing resources they need to analyze that data. We thank Congress for the significant resources it has provided to the program in the near term, but we know that short-term funding does not build sustainable public health systems.

The CDC AMD program uses next generation sequencing (NGS) to bring precision medicine to public health. AMD gives us new tools to detect disease faster, identify outbreaks sooner, and protect people from emerging and evolving disease threats. Beyond viral surveillance, it informs vaccine development, helps to identify and track antimicrobial resistance and foodborne illness, and informs the development of diagnostics for new, existing, and emerging diseases.

We recognize that you face difficult choices with respect to the FY 2022 budget; however, as we continue to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic and other infectious threats, we must grow and sustain the base budget for this unique program. Annual sustained investments are the best way to build a public health infrastructure that is prepared to tackle the next health crisis.

Although the proposed increases fall short of the \$60 million we believe is needed in annual appropriations next year, we thank you for your support and respectfully request that you allocate the Senate-proposed \$40 million for the CDC AMD program in FY 22 to protect public health both now and in the future.

Sincerely,

AdvaMedDx
American Association for Clinical Chemistry
American Association of Bioanalysts
American Medical Technologists
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society for Microbiology
American Society for Virology
American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene
Association for Molecular Pathology
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Big Cities Health Coalition
Biophysical Society
Clear Labs
College of American Pathologists
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Global Health Technologies Coalition
Helix Op Co, LLC
HIV Medicine Association
Illumina
Infectious Diseases Society of America
National Association of County and City Health Officials

National Independent Laboratory Association
Quest Diagnostics
Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists (SIDP)
The Gerontological Society of America
The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
Thermo Fisher Scientific
Trust for America's Health

Cc:

The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable Roy Blunt
The Honorable Tom Cole