

# CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC) COALITION

c/o American Public Health Association 800 I Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001 (202) 777-2514

February 11, 2009

Dear Conferee:

The undersigned members of the CDC Coalition write to urge you to ensure that the \$3 billion included for public health, prevention and wellness in the House-passed version of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 is included in the final conference report. We believe this funding is critical to improving the health of all Americans, creating and maintaining existing state and local public health jobs and to reducing the growing economic and social costs associated with preventable disease and injuries.

The CDC Coalition is a nonpartisan coalition of more than 100 groups committed to strengthening our nation's prevention programs. Our mission is to ensure that health promotion and disease prevention are given top priority in federal funding, to support a funding level for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that enables it to carry out its prevention mission, and to assure an adequate translation of new research into effective state and local programs. Coalition member groups represent millions of public health workers, researchers, educators, and citizens served by CDC programs.

We are pleased with the strong investment in public health and prevention included in the House-passed bill. We believe that a strong and healthy America is key to rebuilding our struggling economy. The \$3 billion included in the bill for public health and prevention will assist state, local and community-based programs that work to prevent disease and reduce the healthcare costs associated with treating many costly conditions and diseases. This funding will also strengthen our immunization programs, provide training and education to our public health workforce, increase efforts to combat the impacts of environmental factors on public health and strengthen efforts to reduce injuries and occupational-related injuries. A recent study by the Trust for America's Health found that for every \$1 spent on proven community-based disease prevention programs, the country could net a return of \$5.60 in health care costs within five years.

In addition to reducing healthcare costs and fighting disease, this funding is essential to maintaining a robust public health workforce. The current economic crisis has affected workers of all professions, including our already struggling public health workforce. More than 11,000 public health jobs were eliminated last year at the state and local level. The public health and prevention funding included in the House-passed bill would help to restore these lost jobs and prevent the elimination of an additional 10,000 jobs next year.

Thank you again for your efforts to include strong public health provisions in this legislation. We look forward to working with you as the bill moves through Congress in the coming days and to ensure that this funding supplements and does not supplant the current funding for our federal, state and local public health programs and agencies.

Sincerely,

AIDS Action Council  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago

AIDS Institute  
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry  
American Association for Health Education  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Heart Association  
American Lung Association  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American School Health Association  
American Social Health Association  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
American Thoracic Society  
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research  
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology  
Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids  
Campaign for Public Health  
Center for Science in the Public Interest  
Coalition for Health Funding  
Coalition for Health Services Research  
Coalition for American Trauma Care  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service  
Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists  
Directors of Health Promotion and Education  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Friends of NCHS  
Hepatitis Foundation International  
HIV Medicine Association  
Home Safety Council  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
March of Dimes Foundation  
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors  
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Coalition for LGBT Health  
National Kidney Foundation  
National Medical Association  
National Sleep Foundation  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S.  
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America

Society for Public Health Education  
Trust for America's Health  
YMCA of USA

Cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
The Honorable James Clyburn  
The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Rahm Emanuel, White House Chief of Staff  
Melody C. Barnes, Director, White House Domestic Policy Council  
The Honorable Peter R. Orszag, Director, Office of Management and Budget  
Jeanne M. Lambrew, Deputy Director, White House Office of Health Reform