



TRUST FOR AMERICA'S HEALTH "CRITICAL CARE" LIST

Fiscal Year 2009 Public Health Funding Priorities

America faces a major health crisis. Tens of millions of Americans suffer every day from chronic diseases like cancer, diabetes, and Alzheimer's that rob them of health and quality of life. And, our nation is not adequately prepared to respond to large-scale health emergencies or bioterrorist attacks. Quality, affordable health care is essential, but a strong public health system focused on prevention must also be part of the solution.

Congress must make strategic investments in preventing and combating threats to our health. Keeping America healthier will require increased upfront and sustained funding for prevention programs which pay off in better health outcomes and in keeping treatment costs down.

However, instead of increasing funds for prevention, the President's proposed budget would cut funds for important public health programs. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) faces a 7 percent cut in discretionary programs from Fiscal Year

(FY) 2008 levels. Over the last 5 years, CDC's budget has remained essentially flat-lined, not even increasing with the rate of inflation.

Trust for America's Health (TFAH) has developed its annual "Critical Care" list to identify key programs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and across other federal agencies that are vital to protecting America's health and preventing disease. Increased support for these programs is needed to help improve the health of all Americans.

Pandemic Influenza Preparedness:

Ensure full funding to implement the Administration's \$7.1 billion **National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza**, which is intended to identify, contain and treat pandemic flu. This includes funding for vaccines; stockpiling antiviral medications, diagnostics, and medical supplies; contingency planning; risk communication; developing surge capacity; and enhancing global and domestic health surveillance. For the Department of Health and Human Services, TFAH supports:

- **\$870 million** to complete the final phase of preparedness activities outlined in the **National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza in November 2005**, to be used for expand-

ing vaccine capacity, purchasing antivirals, and accelerating research and development of rapid diagnostics (ASPR)

- **\$350 million** for **state and local pandemic preparedness activities** (CDC)

- **\$313 million** for **annual, recurring pandemic preparedness activities** (CDC, Food and Drug Administration, National Institutes of Health and the Office of the Secretary)

- **\$507 million** for the **next phase of pandemic preparedness**, which includes resources for building vaccine production capacity; producing egg-based vaccines; and purchasing medical countermeasures (ASPR)

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PREVENTING EPIDEMICS.
PROTECTING PEOPLE.

Bioterrorism and Emergency Preparedness:

Provide funding to upgrade state and local public health departments' capacity to respond to terrorism and improve the nation's ability to respond to mass casualty events by enhancing programs at the CDC and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR). Congress must restore cuts to these programs to continue much-needed public health infrastructure improvements across the country. TFAH recommends:

- **\$919 million** for **upgrading state and local preparedness** (CDC)
- **\$474 million** for the **Hospital Preparedness Program** (ASPR)
- **\$500 million** for the procurement and advanced development of medical coun-

termeasures through the **Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority** (ASPR)

Strengthen the public health workforce to help prepare for and respond to public health emergencies. TFAH recommends a funding level of:

- **\$15 million** for the **Office of the Civilian Medical Reserve Corps** (Office of the Surgeon General)
- **\$6 million** for the **Emergency System for the Advanced Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals** (ASPR)
- **\$5 million** for **public health epidemiology fellowships** (CDC)

Chronic Diseases and Environmental Health

Provide funding to augment programs to combat obesity through evidence-based interventions to improve nutrition and increase physical activity. A February 2008 public opinion survey conducted for TFAH found that seven-in-ten Americans want the federal government to invest more in disease prevention and healthy living, with 46 percent saying they want "much more"

spending. To help fight chronic diseases, TFAH recommends these funding levels:

- **\$65 million** for the **Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity** (CDC)
- **\$74 million** for the **Division of Adolescent School Health** (DASH) (CDC)
- ▲ **\$34 million** for **School Health under DASH**

In addition, TFAH supports the following initiatives at the Department of Education and the Department of the Interior:

- **\$100 million** for the Department of Education's **Carol M. White Physical Education Program**
- **\$125 million** for the Department of the Interior's **Land and Water Conservation Fund state-side assistance program**
- **\$12 million** for the Department of the Interior's **Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program.**

Provide the resources necessary to modernize and integrate health information sources to better track the health of Americans and

research causes and cures of disease. Expand health tracking which is essential to prevention efforts and to fostering a better knowledge of health trends. Specifically:

- **\$50 million** for the **Environment and Health Outcome Tracking Network** to allow federal, state, and local agencies to better develop and evaluate prevention and control efforts for chronic and acute diseases linked to hazards in the environment.
- **\$53 million** for CDC's **Environmental Health Laboratory** to conduct testing for potentially dangerous environmental chemicals.

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