

April 29, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Vice Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cochran, Vice Chairwoman Mikulski, Chairman Rogers, and Ranking Member Lowey:

The undersigned organizations respectfully request that you support **\$32 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) and the Prevention Epicenters Program; \$264 million for CDC's Antibiotic Resistance Solutions Initiative; and ask for your continued support of the Advanced Molecular Detection (AMD) Initiative at \$30 million** in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

Investment in these programs is critical to combating the emergence and transmission of infections that are resistant to antibiotics, and protecting patients and the public from disease and death related to healthcare-associated infections (HAIs).

HAIs are among the leading causes of preventable death in the United States. In hospitals alone, CDC estimates that on any given day one in 25 hospitalized patients has an HAI, totaling approximately 722,000 infections and 75,000 deaths annually. Further, a growing number of infections are resistant to antibiotics leading to an estimated two million illnesses and approximately 23,000 deaths annually.

NHSN, our national HAI tracking system, and the Prevention Epicenters Program are indispensable tools that address scientific gaps in HAI detection and prevention. Increased funding for NHSN and the Prevention Epicenters Program will enable CDC to conduct applied research on interventions for infection prevention and continue to enable hospitals to report and respond to data, which will help target HAI and antibiotic resistance prevention initiatives. This funding level will accelerate wider implementation of the NHSN Antimicrobial Use and Resistance Module to enable hospitals to track antibiotic use and resistance trends to aid in antibiotic stewardship and infection prevention efforts

The CDC's Antibiotic Resistance Solutions Initiative will slow antibiotic resistance by establishing antibiotic resistance prevention programs in all 50 states and 10 large cities to protect patients and communities through activities aimed to improve detection, reporting and response, interrupt inter-

facility transmission of antibiotic resistance, target prevention activities at facilities with the biggest problem with antibiotic resistance. These activities would rely on integrating antibiotic resistance data available through NHSN with existing leadership and partnerships from established state HAI prevention programs.

Finally, we ask for your continued support of the AMD Initiative in bioinformatics and genomics, which allows CDC to more quickly determine where emerging diseases come from, whether microbes are resistant, and how microbes are moving through a population. This Initiative strengthens CDC's epidemiologic and laboratory expertise to effectively guide public health action.

CDC has declared HAIs as one of the winnable battles of 2015 and antibiotic resistance is one of the most critical public health and patient safety threats facing our nation. The actions we take now will determine if we will return to an era where even a small cut could prove fatal. Federal investments in the above programs are vital to the success of the National Action Plan to Combat Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria and to ensuring the safety of our nation's citizens.

Please forward any questions to Laura Evans at the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology via email at [levans@apic.org](mailto:levans@apic.org) or by phone at 202-454-2612. We thank you for your leadership in the effort to eliminate preventable HAIs, combat antibiotic resistance and improve patient safety and outcomes.

Sincerely,

Accelerate Diagnostics

Alliance for Aging Research

Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics

AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine

America's Essential Hospitals

American Health Care Association

American Nurses Association

American Public Health Association

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)

American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS)

Antibiotic Resistance Action Center at The George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology

Association of peri-Operative Registered Nurses

Association of Public Health Laboratories

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

BD

Cempra Inc

Connecticut Center for Patient Safety

Consumers Union  
Cook County Health and Hospitals System  
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists  
Dignity Health  
GOJO  
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute  
Health Industry Distributors Association  
Health Watch USA  
HONORreform  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI)  
Keep Antibiotics Working  
Making A Difference in Infectious Diseases (MAD-ID)  
March of Dimes  
Microbion Corporation  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of Directors of Nursing Administration in Long-Term Care  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Center for Assisted Living  
National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID)  
NovaDigm Therapeutics  
PDI  
Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society  
Premier healthcare alliance  
Rush University Medical Center  
SAFE Care Campaign  
Sealed Air Diversey Care  
Sharing Antimicrobial Reports for Pediatric Stewardship (SHARPS) Collaborative  
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America  
Society of Hospital Medicine  
Society of Infectious Disease Pharmacists  
The Joint Commission  
The Peggy Lillis Memorial Foundation  
The Pew Charitable Trusts  
Trusts for America's Health  
Xenex

CC: Senate Appropriations Committee  
House Appropriations Committee