

May 3, 2016

The Honorable Hal 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

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

The undersigned organizations respectfully request that you support **\$21 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN); \$200 million for the Antibiotic Resistance Solutions Initiative; and the Advanced Molecular Detection (AMD) Initiative at \$30 million** in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

Continued investment in these programs is critical to protect patients and the public from disease and death related to healthcare-associated infections (HAIs), an increasing number of which are resistant to antibiotics.

HAIs are commonly caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria, which may lead to sepsis or death. One in seven catheter- and surgery-related HAIs in acute care hospitals, and one in four catheter- and surgery-related HAIs in long-term acute care hospitals, is caused by any of six resistant bacteria (not including *C. difficile*) that have been identified as serious or urgent threats by CDC. In hospitals alone, CDC estimates that one in 25 hospitalized patients will contract an HAI, totaling approximately 722,000 infections and 75,000 deaths annually.

Healthcare facilities report HAIs to CDC via NHSN, the national HAI tracking system. NHSN provides quality improvement data as well as real-time facility-specific and region-wide data on antibiotic use and resistance trends. The requested funding level will enable CDC to expand NHSN use to additional healthcare facilities across the spectrum of care, continue to guide efforts to prevent infections and reduce HAI rates, provide critical user support, and develop innovative HAI prevention approaches. Progress has been made in preventing HAIs, including a 50% decrease in central line-associated blood stream infections from 2008 to 2014, but more

work is needed. Sustained funding for NHSN is critical to prevent the spread of infections and combat antibiotic resistance.

The CDC Antibiotic Resistance Initiative will expand FY 2016 HAI/antibiotic resistance (AR) prevention efforts from 25 states to up to 50 states, six large cities, and Puerto Rico, investing in direct action to implement proven interventions that reduce emergence and spread of AR pathogens and improve appropriate antibiotic use. The Initiative will incorporate NHSN antibiotic use information to improve antibiotic prescribing practices. Inappropriate or unnecessary antibiotic prescribing contributes to the rise of resistant pathogens.

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. The AMD Initiative uses advanced molecular sequencing tools along with cutting-edge information technologies and bioinformatics experts to enable faster and more effective infectious disease prevention and control. This program strengthens CDC's epidemiologic and laboratory expertise to effectively guide public health action.

CDC has declared HAIs as one of the winnable battles of 2016 and some progress has been made in reducing the burden of HAIs. However, we cannot allow such progress to backslide due to lack of funding. 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. 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

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

America's Essential Hospitals

American Health Care Association

American Public Health Association

American Society of Transplant Surgeons

American Thoracic Society

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 periOperative Registered Nurses

BD

Connecticut Center for Patient Safety

Consumers Union

Cook County Health and Hospital Systems

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists

Dignity Health

Food Animal Concerns Trust

Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute

Health Watch USA

HONORreform

Infectious Diseases Society of America

Keep Antibiotics Working

Making A Difference in Infectious Diseases (MAD-ID)

National Association of County and City Health Officials

National Association of Directors of Nursing Administration in Long-Term Care

National Center for Assisted Living

NovaDigm

Premier healthcare alliance

Sealed Air Diversey Care

Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America

The Peggy Lillis Memorial Foundation

The Pew Charitable Trusts

Trust for America's Health

Xenex