

The Honorable Robert Aderholt Chair
Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies

assistants, infection preventionists, and dentists. In 2022, 80 percent of U.S. counties lacked an ID physician, and just over half of ID physician training programs filled, compared to most other physician specialties which filled nearly all their programs. A quarter of health care facilities have reported a vacant infection preventionist position and a 2019 survey showed a vacancy rate for clinical microbiologists of over 10 percent. Communities without ID health care professionals will be less equipped to respond to threats like antimicrobial resistance, health care associated infections, sepsis, and infectious diseases associated with the opioid epidemic, and less able to advance federal initiatives to End the HIV Epidemic and eliminate viral hepatitis.

Our organizations are grateful to Congress for recognizing the challenges facing these vital workforces and including Section 2221 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 bipartisan legislation authorizing both the Public Health Workforce Loan Repayment Program and the Bio-Preparedness Workforce Pilot Program. These programs will provide needed financial incentives to bring public health and ID professionals into settings where they are crucially needed. We are hopeful that your Subcommittee will build on this important progress and provide funding for these programs in FY 2025.

As your Subcommittee makes funding decisions for FY 2025, we urge you to fully fund the Public Health Workforce Loan Repayment Program at its \$100 million authorization level and provide \$50 million to launch the Bio-Preparedness Workforce Pilot Program.

Investing in these bipartisan programs would promote the recruitment and retention of as many as 2,000 public health professionals at local, state, and Tribal public health agencies across the country, and as many as 1,000 ID and HIV health care professionals in rural and urban health professional shortage areas, medically underserved communities, or federal facilities by offering loan repayment in exchange for three-year service commitments. These commonsense incentives will help ensure our public health and ID workforces grow sufficiently to keep our communities safe and healthy in the years to come.

Sincerely,

National Association of County and City Health Officials
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Act Now End AIDS (ANEA) Coalition
ADAP Advocacy
AIDS Action Baltimore
AIDS Alabama
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families
AIDS Foundation Chicago
AIDS United
American Academy of HIV Medicine
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
American Geriatrics Society
American Public Health Association

American Society for Microbiology
APLA Health
Association for Diagnostics & Laboratory Medicine
Association for Molecular Pathology

PrEP4All
Public Health Accreditation Board
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition
Saint Francis University Public Health
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
San Francisco Community Health Center
School-Based Health Alliance
Sepsis Alliance
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
Society for Public Health Education
Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists
Stuart B Levy Center for Integrated Management of Antimicrobial Resistance at Tufts
Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA)
Sutter Health
Texas Association of City & County Health Officials
The AIDS Institute
The Renewell Foundation
The Reunion Project
THRIVE SS, Inc
Treatment Action Group
Trinity Health
Trust for America's Health
Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN)
U.S. People Living with HIV Caucus
UAF Legacy Health
UMass Amherst, School of Public Health and Health Sciences
University of Illinois Health
Valley AIDS Council
Vermont Public Health Association
Vivent Health
Warren-Vance Community Health Center
Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials
Washington State Public Health Association
Wellness Equity Alliance
West Michigan Infectious Diseases Consultants
Whitman-Walker Institute
Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards