



May 14, 2024

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Baldwin and Ranking Member Capito,

As the Appropriations Committee makes important decisions about Fiscal Year (FY) 2025⁴ funding, we request your support for core Public Health Data Modernization at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to ensure nimble, response readiness to emerging threats of all types, and additional funds for CDC's Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics (CFA).

Our nation's public health officials work every day to address outbreaks of mosquito borne diseases, respiratory viruses, measles, and food-borne illnesses—and new threats to our public health can emerge at any time in our communities. Archaic data systems still in operation across jurisdictions slow our response to public health threats and cost American lives. In recent years we have made critical investments that allowed us to gain ground in upgrading our nation's public health systems, but the states we represent need continued resources to ensure they do not lose the critical capacity gained, and are prepared to address future public health emergencies and keep our communities safe. Our public health data systems must continue to robustly secure data from the threat of cyber-attacks and continue to transition from paper to electronic reporting that saves healthcare partners valuable time.

Without access to modern, interoperable data systems, our public health officials are not able to adequately respond to daily, emerging, or future public health threats. Public Health Data Modernization is helping to create a standards-based interoperable public health infrastructure, ensuring all systems can communicate and share data seamlessly with one another; advancing standards so that information can be stored and shared across systems; and facilitating complete and timely detection and reporting so that our public health system has the necessary data required to respond to communities most impacted by a given threat. While funding for Public Health Data Modernization ensures life-saving data is available to communities to address their identified priorities, additional funding for CFA will facilitate the use of the data (once collected), for predictive modeling, and analytics to improve pandemic preparedness and response. CDC is also using the Response Ready Enterprise Data Integration platform (RREDI)

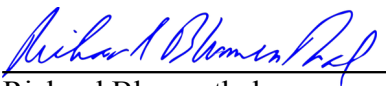
to optimize management of various data sources. Public Health Data Modernization, CFA, and RREDI are separate and each essential components of CDC's public health data efforts, and each require dedicated funding.

To date, Congress has acknowledged through both annual and emergency appropriations that data systems modernization is an indispensable component of a nimble, effective, public health response supporting each jurisdiction to ensure their people and communities thrive and broad national needs are met. However, further funding is needed to ensure the public health system in every jurisdiction is ready to combat the next serious public health threat. A robust investment in FY 2025 coupled with sustained, long-term funding is the only way to bring our public health data systems into the modern era and have the right data, available at the right time for critical decision making.

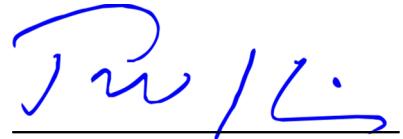
Now, more than ever, it is critical for CDC to have a strong national public health data infrastructure that detects and facilitates immediate response to emerging health threats. We need an interoperable, high-speed, networked health system—from laboratories to health care facilities to public health authorities—with fast, secure, and reliable data to keep Americans safe.

As the Appropriations Committee completes its work for FY 2025, we encourage you to include at least \$340 million in funding for Public Health Data Modernization, with an additional \$100 million for the CFA, and additional separate, dedicated funding for RREDI. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



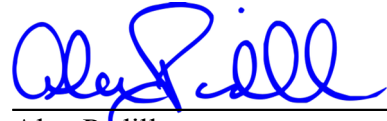
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



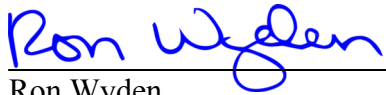
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator