May 14, 2014

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, HHS, and Education
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, HHS, and Education
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, HHS, and Education
2358B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, HHS, and Education
2358B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Harkin and Kingston and Ranking Members Moran and DeLauro:

We 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; $30 million in the President's budget for the Detect and Protect Against Antibiotic Resistance Initiative; and ask for your continued support of the Advanced Molecular Detection (AMD) Initiative at $30 million** in the FY 2015 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

These programs are uniquely positioned to detect the transmission of infections that are highly resistant to antibiotics and to protect patients and the public from disease and death related to healthcare-associated infections (HAIs).

HAIs are among the leading causes of preventable harm and death in the United States. In hospitals alone, CDC estimates that one in 25 hospitalized patients has an HAI. Antibiotic resistance is one of the most critical public health and patient safety threats facing us today, causing an estimated two million illnesses and approximately 23,000 deaths annually.

Our national HAI tracking system, NHSN, along with the Prevention Epicenters research program, are critical tools to address scientific gaps in HAI detection and prevention. NHSN helps us monitor HAIs and understand the extent of the HAI problem, while the Prevention Epicenters conduct the research necessary to address scientific gaps regarding prevention of HAIs and help us better target solutions to protect patients from harm. Increased funding for NHSN would support expanded tracking of antibiotic use and resistance patterns, which are critical to the success of CDC's antibiotic resistance initiative.

The CDC's Detect and Protect Against Antibiotic Resistance Initiative would save lives and reduce healthcare costs by establishing a robust network of five regional labs to detect the deadliest antibiotic resistance threats and protect patients and communities through the rapid identification of outbreaks and newly emerging resistance patterns.

Finally, we appreciate your support for the AMD initiative in bioinformatics and genomics in FY14. This funding will allow CDC to more quickly determine where emerging diseases come

from, whether microbes are resistant, and how pathogens and diseases are moving through a population. We ask for your continued support of this program.

In summary, we ask that you provide **$32 million for the CDC's NHSN and Prevention Epicenters, $30 million for the Detect and Protect Against Antibiotic Resistance (AR) Initiative, and $30 million to continue support for the AMD Initiative** in the FY 2015 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to make the case for these strategic programs that improve patient outcomes and reduce healthcare costs.

Sincerely,

Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics
AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine
American Health Care Association (AHCA)
American Public Health Association (APHA)
American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)
Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL)
Association of peri-Operative Registered Nurses (AORN)
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)
BD
Connecticut Center for Patient Safety
Cook County Health and Hospitals System
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE)
Federation of American Hospitals (FAH)
HAI Focus
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute
Health Watch USA
HONOReform Foundation
Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA)
Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI)
National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
National Association of Directors of Nursing Administration in Long-Term Care
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL)
PDI
Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (PIDS)
Premier Inc.
SAFE Care Campaign
Society for Healthcare Epidemiologists of America (SHEA)
Society of Hospital Medicine
The Peggy Lillis Memorial Foundation
Trusts for America's Health (TFAH)