

February 27, 2017

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

As organizations representing clinicians, public health, scientists, allied health professionals, nurses, veterinarians, patients and advocates, we urge you to be mindful of the essential role of the federal public health and biomedical research workforce as you consider long-term policy regarding federal hiring. We are encouraged by reports that jobs that respond to public health and medical emergencies (such as the opioid epidemic, pandemic influenza, Ebola and Zika), as well as jobs related to food, drug and medical device safety are exempt from the current federal hiring freeze, and we appreciate your recognition that these jobs are essential to public safety and national security. We ask that the long-term federal hiring strategy reflect the need for a strong workforce not only to respond to public health emergencies, but throughout the public health continuum to help prevent them, to protect the public from ongoing health threats, and to promote healthy communities.

Maintaining public health workforce capacity before an emergency occurs is necessary to ensure that an emergency is rapidly and accurately identified and that an effective response is triggered swiftly. Public health experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) take the lead in preparedness and response activities for major national and global public health emergencies, as well as for everyday threats including foodborne illness. CDC staff also lead important efforts to prevent serious illnesses and chronic diseases, including HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, antimicrobial resistant infections, heart disease, diabetes and many other diseases that pose a serious threat to public health and safety.

The healthcare and services, health workforce and health centers supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration in communities across the country are the first line of defense in preventing, detecting and responding to public health outbreaks and natural disasters at the local level. HRSA programs and staff working with other federal partners are critical to ensuring frontline capacity to manage public health emergencies. HRSA helps local service providers and health centers to be ready to respond through emergency preparedness and steps in during times of need, such as to support services for women and their babies affected by Zika and to control the HIV and hepatitis C outbreaks in Scott County, Indiana.

Biomedical research and public health go hand in hand. During an outbreak, public health responders need tools like vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics to save lives. We rely upon the National Institutes of Health to lead this critical research. While over 80% of NIH funding is awarded to external researchers, researchers at NIH conduct groundbreaking research on diseases and conditions that pose serious threats to public safety, including cancer, birth defects and infectious diseases. Further, NIH staff provide important coordination and support for more than

300,000 researchers at more than 2,500 universities, medical schools, and other research institutions.

Finally, staff at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are necessary to ensure the safety, efficacy and availability of life-saving therapeutics and devices to respond to pandemics, bioterror attacks and other public health emergencies, as well as more routine threats to public safety, including a host of serious diseases and conditions. In addition, FDA's staff plays an essential role in ensuring the safety of our food supply, including helping to prevent foodborne illness.

Once again, we thank you for recognizing the essential role of the federal workforce in responding to public health emergencies and the recognition that many public health and biomedical research jobs are critical to protecting public safety and national security. Moving forward, we look forward to working with you to protect and strengthen the workforce across the public health continuum. We would welcome the opportunity to help inform your longer term federal hiring policies.

Sincerely,

AcademyHealth

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

African American Health Alliance

AIDS Action Baltimore

AIDS Alabama South, LLC

AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families

The AIDS Institute

AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta

Alabaster

Alliance for Aging Research

Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics

Alzheimer's Mississippi

Alzheimer's Orange County

American Academy of HIV Medicine

American Association for Dental Research

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases

American Association of Colleges of Nursing

American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine

American Association of Immunologists

American Brain Coalition

American College of Clinical Pharmacy

American College of Preventive Medicine

American Federation for Aging Research

American Gastroenterological Association

American Geriatrics Society

American Heart Association  
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering  
American Medical Women's Association  
American Podiatric Medical Association, Inc.  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Sexual Health Association  
American Sexually Transmitted Diseases Association  
American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery  
American Society for Microbiology  
American Society for Nutrition  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Society of Transplantation  
American Society of Transplant Surgeons  
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene  
American Statistical Association  
American Thoracic Society  
American Veterinary Medical Association  
Americans for Democratic Action  
amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research  
Antibiotic Resistance Action Center, George Washington University  
APLA Health  
Argentum – Expanding Senior Living  
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology  
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology  
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges  
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools  
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care  
Association of Public Health Laboratories  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America  
AVAC  
Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging  
Caring Ambassadors Program, Inc.  
The Cave Institute  
Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics & Policy  
Center for Foodborne Illness Research & Prevention  
Center for Science in the Public Interest  
Children's Environmental Health Network

CHOW Project  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc.  
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America  
Consumer Federation of America  
Cooley's Anemia Foundation  
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists  
Council on Social Work Education  
Dementia Alliance International  
Emory Antibiotic Resistance Center  
Endocrine Society  
Every Child By Two  
Gerontological Society of America  
Harm Reduction Coalition  
Healthcare Ready  
HealthHIV  
Healthy Teen Network  
Heart Failure Society of America  
Hep Free Hawaii  
HIV Dental Alliance  
HIV Medicine Association  
Immunization Action Coalition  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
International Association of Forensic Nurses  
Iowa Public Health Association  
The Jeffrey Modell Foundation  
Lung Cancer Alliance  
March of Dimes  
Meharry Medical College  
Microbion Corporation  
Midwest Asian Health Association  
Morehouse School of Medicine  
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of Veterans' Research and Education Foundations  
National Black Justice Coalition  
National Blood Clot Alliance  
National Coalition for LGBT Health  
National Coalition of STD Directors  
National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians  
National Environmental Health Association  
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National League for Nursing

National Medical Association  
National Minority AIDS Council  
National Safety Council  
National TB Controllers Association  
Nile's Project MRSA  
Noah Homes  
Obesity Action Coalition  
Obesity Medicine Association  
The Obesity Society  
ONCORD, Inc.  
One Health Commission  
OraSure Technologies  
OWL-The Voice of Women 40+  
Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society  
Peggy Lillis Foundation  
Population Council  
POZ Military-Veterans USA INTL  
Prevention Access Campaign  
Prevention Institute  
Project Inform  
Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition  
Renal Physicians Association  
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition  
Society for Health Psychology  
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America  
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
Society of Critical Care Medicine  
Spero Therapeutics  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative  
Treatment Action Group  
Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine  
Youth Movement Against Alzheimer's