

October 24, 2014

Ron Klain
Ebola Response Coordinator
Office of the Homeland Security Advisor
National Security Council Staff, Executive Office of the President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Shaun Donovan
Director, Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 252
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Klain and Mr. Donovan:

We write to express our support for robust and sustained funding of public health emergency and biosecurity programs that are administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Programs like the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP), which ensures that hospitals are ready to effectively respond in emergency situations; the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant program, which supports state and local public health preparedness capabilities; the Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasure Enterprise (PHEMCE), which funds the development and manufacturing of essential medical products such as vaccines and therapeutics; and the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), which maintains caches of medical products for use in emergencies, are essential to ensuring that our nation is prepared against threats. These threats can be either naturally-occurring, like Ebola or pandemic influenza, or deliberate, such as a chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear (CBRN) event. As we witness the devastating impact of Ebola in West Africa and the global concern that this disease has produced, it is clear that programs that protect Americans from public health threats simply cannot be funded only after a disaster hits.

A strong public health and healthcare infrastructure is essential to the country's biosecurity and public health preparedness. HPP has been cut by nearly a third since Fiscal Year 2010, resulting in the loss of personnel, expertise, and coordination within healthcare coalitions charged with protecting the healthcare system during a disaster. HPP has been credited with saving lives during the Boston Marathon bombing and the Joplin, Missouri tornadoes. The PHEP program builds the first line of public health defense against disasters and disease outbreaks, including surveillance, emergency operations, response, and recovery. PHEP helps all community sectors to work together — local and state health departments, emergency management, first responders, health care providers, business, education, faith-based and service groups—so that when disaster strikes, everyone is prepared. Together, these grant programs have modernized the nation's preparedness far beyond where it was after September 11th, but we risk losing these gains without adequate investment.

The lack of a vaccine or therapeutic that is widely available to prevent and treat Ebola also presents a significant challenge to managing and ultimately stemming the epidemic. Our ability to effectively respond to deliberate and naturally-occurring health security threats requires robust and sustained

funding for medical countermeasure (MCM) development and procurement through the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) and the Project BioShield Special Reserve Fund (SRF). These programs provide the resources to research, develop, and procure a diverse portfolio of MCMs for all populations that are essential to controlling epidemics and saving lives. Without robust funding to develop, purchase, and maintain these critical health security assets, we will have little recourse against devastating threats, which include not only Ebola, but also pandemic influenza, smallpox, anthrax, and other CBRN threats.

We urge you to request robust funding for these programs to respond to the current Ebola outbreak and to ensure that the tools necessary to avert future public health crises are sustained to ensure that American citizens are protected.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Biosecurity
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association on Health and Disability
American Association of Medical Colleges
American College of Preventive Medicine
Academic Pediatric Association
American Pediatric Society
American Public Health Association
American Veterinary Medical Association
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Biotechnology Industry Organization
California Healthcare Institute - CHI
Geostrategic Analysis
Infectious Diseases Society of America
National Association of County and City Health Officials
Society for Pediatric Research
Trust for America's Health
UPMC Center for Health Security

cc: Secretary Sylvia Burwell, Department of Health and Human Services
Tom Frieden, Director of Centers of Disease Control and Prevention
Lisa Monaco, Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism
Julian Harris, Associate Director, Health Programs, Office of Management and Budget
Nicole Lurie, Assistant Secretary Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response
Sonja Rasmussen, Acting Director of the Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response (PHPR),
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention