

December 5, 2022

Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Roy Blunt  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairs DeLauro and Murray and Ranking Members Cole and Blunt,

The undersigned national, state, and community-based public health and LGBTQ organizations urge you to include an additional \$900 million in the final negotiations on the FY'23 omnibus appropriations bill to respond to monkeypox (mpox). The White House's critical needs supplemental request submitted last week includes \$400 million to replenish the smallpox vaccine supply, but their request overlooks the ways in which the outbreak severely depleted local supplies, worsened workforce shortages, and strained overall capacity at an alarming rate. The additional items outlined below comprise the other critical foundational components needed to properly respond to the ongoing outbreak.

This summer, our public health departments and front-line providers faced unprecedented pressure from the simultaneous public health crises of 21,000 cases of mpox,<sup>1</sup> 13,000,000 cases of COVID-19,<sup>2</sup> and the ongoing HIV, hepatitis, and sexually transmitted infections (STI) syndemic.

As the initial wave of the mpox outbreak continues to subside, it's clear that our national strategy worked, but at a cost. To effectively respond to MPOX and future infectious disease outbreaks, we request that the omnibus package provide additional funding as follows:

1. \$400 million to restore the smallpox vaccine stockpile;
2. \$250 million to state and local public health departments for testing capacity, vaccine administration, surveillance, and epidemiology studies for mpox; and
3. \$250 million for community health centers, Ryan White and STI clinics and providers on the front lines of mpox to replenish supplies, alleviate staffing shortages, and restore capacity.

Each of these steps, taken together, will strengthen our strained and underfunded public health system. But we cannot continue to jump from emergency to emergency. A sustained investment is needed now to provide public health departments and clinics with the resources necessary to operate as our nation's first lines of defense. The United States must be prepared for the next infectious disease outbreak while not losing ground in the fight against mpox, COVID-19, HIV, hepatitis, and sexually transmitted infections.

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<sup>1</sup> From May 1 to September 1, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> From May 1 to September 1, 2022.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please reach out to Rachel Deitch at the National Coalition of STD Directors via email at [rdeitch@ncsddc.org](mailto:rdeitch@ncsddc.org).

Signed,

AIDS Action Baltimore  
AIDS Alabama  
AIDS Foundation Chicago (AFC)  
AIDS United  
American Academy of HIV Medicine  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
APLA Health  
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology  
Association of Latinos/as/xs Motivating Action  
Association of Public Health Laboratories  
Big Cities Health Coalition  
Community Education Group  
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists  
Fenway Health  
Georgia AIDS Coalition  
Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club HIV Caucus  
HealthHIV  
HIV Dental Alliance  
HIV Medicine Association  
Human Rights Campaign  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
Justice Resource Institute  
Los Angeles LGBT Center  
NASTAD  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Coalition of STD Directors  
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association  
National Harm Reduction Coalition  
NMAC  
PrEP4All  
R2H Action (Right to Health)  
Safer Together  
San Francisco Community Health Center  
The AIDS Institute  
The PAIGE Inc.  
The San Francisco Principles 2020  
Treatment Action Group (TAG)  
Whitman-Walker Health