

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

November 15, 2022

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, and Leader McCarthy,

The undersigned organizations represent the diversity of our nation's leading healthcare professionals and industry partners including physicians, scientists, patients, pharmacists, physician assistants, nurses, clinical laboratory professionals, infection preventionists, dentists, medical supply manufacturers and distributors, and drug and device manufacturers. We write to strongly urge you to include key provisions of S. 3799, the Prepare for and Respond to Existing Viruses, Emerging New Threats, and Pandemics Act (PREVENT Pandemics Act) in any final legislative package this year. These provisions are essential to ensure that our nation's public health, medical preparedness and response systems are fortified to combat ongoing and future public health emergencies.

Priority provisions that we urge you to consider for an end-of-year legislative package include the following:

- The BIO Preparedness Workforce Pilot Program, which would incentivize health care professionals to pursue careers in infectious disease (ID) and bio-preparedness in underserved communities and health professional shortage areas. As debt for medical education and training is a cause for people not to pursue a careers in these low-paying fields, the loan repayment program would engage people to join this important workforce;
- The Tracking Pathogens Act, which would strengthen and expand the use of pathogen genomic sequencing and surveillance activities in public health and in partnership with academic institutions, clinical laboratories and private sector entities;
- Provisions that improve public health preparedness and response capabilities, accelerate research and medical product development;
- Provisions that strengthen the medical product supply chain in order to mitigate shortages; and,
- Provisions that address the health inequities that contribute to the disparities experienced by marginalized populations and underserved urban and rural communities during public health emergencies.

We must act now to lay the groundwork for our domestic security and preparedness. These provisions in PREVENT will strengthen state and federal preparedness, including through enhanced bio-surveillance and genome sequencing; address health disparities and ensure equity in pandemic planning and response both rural and urban communities; support research and countermeasures; and address critical resource allocation issues and fortify the supply chain supply issues.

Finally, the success of our nation's pandemic preparedness efforts will hinge upon all communities having a health care workforce with expertise in bio-preparedness and infectious diseases and in deploying the diagnostic, prevention and treatment tools necessary to combat public health challenges and threats. Over the past several years, members of our organizations have been on the frontlines of pandemics, epidemics, and outbreaks including COVID-19, HIV, sexually-transmitted infections, viral hepatitis, Zika, Ebola, and

monkeypox even as they address other pressing health issues. Frontline health care workers, patients and communities are relying on you to better prepare the United States for the next pandemic. A well-trained and expanded health workforce is critical for ensuring rapid high-quality response which would reduce avoidable adverse outcomes including deaths. We appreciate your continued leadership on these critical issues and look forward to working with you to enact these key provisions of PREVENT this year.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

AIDS United
American Academy of HIV Medicine
American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges
American Dental Association
American Mosquito Control Association
American Society for Microbiology
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association of American Medical Colleges
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
GMHC
Health Industry Distributors Association
Healthcare Ready
HIV Dental Alliance
HIV Medicine Association
Infectious Diseases Society of America
International Association of Providers of AIDS Care
John Snow, Inc. (JSI)
NASTAD
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Environmental Health Association
National Rural Health Association
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR)
Physician Assistant Education Association
Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society
Peggy Lillis Foundation
Sepsis Alliance
Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
Treatment Action Group (TAG)
U=U - U.S.
US Biologic, Inc.
Valent BioSciences LLC
Vivent Health
Woundtech

State, Regional, and Local Organizations and Institutions

ACCP
AIDS Action Baltimore
AIDS Alabama
AIDS Foundation Chicago
Albert Einstein College of Medicine

American Academy of HIV Medicine California/Hawaii Chapter
American Academy of HIV Medicine Georgia Chapter
American Academy of HIV Medicine Great Lakes Chapter
American Academy of HIV Medicine Mid-Atlantic Chapter
American Academy of HIV Medicine New England Chapter
American Academy of HIV Medicine New York/New Jersey Chapter
American Academy of HIV Medicine Pennsylvania Chapter
American Academy of HIV Medicine Southeast Chapter
American Academy of HIV Medicine Southwest Chapter
American Academy of HIV Medicine Texas Chapter
Anastasia Mosquito Control District
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
Arizona Infectious Diseases Society
Associated Executives of Mosquito Control Work in NJ
Bill's Kitchen, Inc
Brown Medicine
Cares of Southwest Michigan
Cascade AIDS Project
CDC Southeastern Center of Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases: The Gateway Program
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
Cleveland Clinic
Columbia University
Duke University School of Nursing
Fast-Track Cities Institute
Fenway Health
Georgia Equality
Grady Health System
Houston Methodist
Howard Brown Health
Infectious Disease Association of California
Infectious Disease Society of Washington
Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security
Legacy Community Health
Lehigh Valley Health Network
Los Angeles LGBT Center
Mass General Brigham
Massachusetts Infectious Diseases Society (MIDS)
Midwest Center of Excellence for Vector-Borne Disease
Mississippi Positive Network
Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California
My Brother's Keeper, Inc
New England AETC / University of Massachusetts / Family Health Center of Worcester
North Carolina AIDS Action Network
North Carolina Mosquito and Vector Control Association
Northeast Regional Center for Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases
Northwell Health
Pacific Southwest Center of Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases
PCAF
Puerto Rico Public Health Trust
Puerto Rico Vector Control Unit
Rainbow Health Minnesota
San Francisco AIDS Foundation

San Francisco Community Health Center
Southern Nevada Infectious Diseases Society
Stanford Health Care
Thrive Alabama
Trinity Health
Tufts Medicine
UI Health
UNC Health and UNC School of Medicine
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
University of Michigan
University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC)
University of Rochester
University of Texas Medical Branch
UVA Health
UW Medicine
Valley AIDS Council
Wayne State University
West Michigan Infectious Diseases Consultants
Whitman-Walker Institute and Whitman-Walker Health

cc: The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable Richard Burr
The Honorable Frank Pallone
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers