September 19, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriation
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Subject: Antimicrobial Resistance Programs in FY2024 Appropriations Bills

Dear Chair Granger, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chair Murray and Ranking Member Collins:

The undersigned organizations, representing clinicians, scientists, patients, public health, animal agriculture and the pharmaceutical and diagnostics industries, urge you to significantly increase federal funding for domestic and global antimicrobial resistance (AMR) programs. We call for a comprehensive One Health approach that encompasses human, animal and environmental health with increased funding for surveillance, prevention, stewardship, research and innovation. We strongly urge you to pass an omnibus funding package to avoid any additional funding reductions that would jeopardize the predictability that researchers and public health departments require to combat the rising AMR crisis.

Antimicrobial resistance is one of the greatest public health threats of our time and addressing AMR is central to strengthening our preparedness for future public health emergencies, as patients with respiratory infections, serious wounds or burns, or other conditions requiring hospitalization are all at risk for secondary resistant infections. Alarmingly, a recent report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that U.S. hospital-associated AMR **infections and deaths rose 15% in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic**, wiping out progress made in 2012-2017 to lower U.S. deaths from AMR. Additionally infections are a primary or associated cause of death in 50% of patients with cancer, as AMR can make these infections difficult or impossible to treat. AMR has a disproportionate impact on certain communities due to variance in risk of exposure, susceptibility to infection or treatment received. Rates of several serious antibiotic resistant infections, including community-associated MRSA, are higher incidence in Black populations.

Our organizations acknowledge the challenging funding environment facing Congressional appropriators this year and appreciate investments in many programs while noting that a deeper investment in the federal response to AMR will be needed to meet the growing domestic and global AMR crisis going forward. Below we outline specific AMR priorities from the FY2023 House and Senate appropriations bills that we urge you to include in the omnibus.

Labor, Health, Human Services, and Related Agencies Appropriations (LHHS)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Antibiotic Resistance Solutions Initiative

We urge $202 million in funding for the Antibiotic Resistance Solutions Initiative as provided in the House LHHS bill. This funding would help maintain key activities including antibiotic stewardship across the continuum of care; state and local grant awards; supporting the AR Laboratory Network globally and domestically to strengthen the identification, tracking and containment of deadly pathogens; support AMR research and Prevention Epicenters; and maintain public and healthcare professional education and awareness activities.

Advanced Molecular Detection

We urge funding of $40 million as provided in the House and Senate LHHS bills to help ensure continued detection and tracking of existing and emerging resistant pathogens. Funding is needed to help public health laboratories ensure integration of genomics into AMR surveillance and response, sustain support for the newly-established public-private Pathogen Genomics Centers of Excellence, focused on improving cross-sector innovation and training and support ongoing AMD activities.

National Healthcare Safety Network

We urge funding of $24 million for the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) as provided in the House and Senate LHHS bills to help enable the program to modernize, alleviate reporting burdens and speed access to actionable data, which help measure and drive progress toward optimizing antibiotic use and reducing resistance. Increased funding would provide access to technical support for more than 65,000 staff at health care facilities who use NHSN.

Center for Global Health

We urge $692 million in funding as included in the Senate LHHS bill, including $293 million for CDC's Division of Global Health Protection to prevent, detect and respond to infectious disease threats in the places they originate before they reach American soil. Funding is vital to ensure global health capacity to stop threats where they emerge as well as address growing drug resistance in low- and middle-income countries.

Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR)

Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA)

We urge $970 million as provided in the Senate LHHS bill for BARDA, which will help support increased funding for BARDA's broad spectrum antimicrobials program and CARB-X,. which both leverage public/private partnerships to develop innovative products that prevent, detect and treat resistant infections. These efforts have led to new FDA approved antibiotics. Despite this progress, the pipeline of new antibiotics in development is insufficient to meet patient needs.

We urge $820 million in funding for the Project BioShield Special Reserve Fund (SRF) as provided in the Senate LHHS bill, which is positioned to support the response to public health threats, including AMR. BARDA and NIAID efforts have been successful in helping companies bring new antibiotics to market, but those companies now struggle to stay in business and two filed for bankruptcy in 2019. Additional funding is needed to expand this approach to better support the antibiotics market, particularly the small often vulnerable biotech companies that develop new products.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

Within NIH, NIAID should be funded at $6.562 billion as included in the Senate LHHS bill, with $565 million for antimicrobial resistance research, as included in the Senate and House LHHS bill. NIAID plays a leading role in research for new rapid ID diagnostics, vaccines and therapeutics. Funding at these levels would allow NIAID to continue to address AMR while in supporting infectious diseases research.

Agriculture-FDA

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine and related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs should be supported at $286,633,000 as included in the Senate Agriculture funding bill. Robust support is needed to bolster FDA's One Health efforts to combat antibiotic resistant bacteria. This level of support is required to measure changes in veterinary antibiotic stewardship and to protect antibiotic effectiveness for human and animal populations. FDA needs resources to complete the remaining goals of its 2018 five-year antibiotic stewardship action plan, including strengthening the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) to make it consistent with One Health principles. And namely, issuing the overdue draft guidance on establishing duration limits to ensure that all current FDA-approved veterinary indications carry duration limits that conform to appropriate and judicious veterinary antibiotic use, thereby ensuring final guidance can be issued more expediently as well.

Funding is also needed to advance FDA's plan to create and implement a functional and efficient system for the regular collection of nationally-representative antimicrobial use data in animals. The additional needed funding will assist academic institutions and other partners in developing veterinary educational materials, and supporting the building of national capacity to do surveillance of antimicrobial use through FDA's Veterinary Laboratory Investigation and Response Network (Vet-LIRN). We support inclusion of language from the House Report related to the Human Foods Program Restructuring and the inclusion of the Center for Veterinary Medicine in this restructuring.

US Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

We urge funding of APHIS at $1,185,967,000 as provided by the Senate Agriculture funding bill to support the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) program to continue its collection and analysis of data on antimicrobial use and resistance as well as national-level prevalence data on zoonotic diseases. We additionally urge funding for continued support for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network.

Agricultural Research Service

We support robust funding of the USDA's research programs. We urge funding of the Agricultural Research Service at $1,792,879,000 as provided by the Senate Agriculture funding bill and $1,085,221,000 funding for the National Institute of Food And Agriculture as provided by the House Agriculture funding bill. These funds will enable USDA investigators and scientists at public

universities, veterinary colleges, and other research settings to better understand antimicrobial use and other factors driving the emergence of resistant pathogens, and help producers find new vaccines, antibiotic alternatives and improved animal management and husbandry practices that can be shared directly with farmers and livestock growers via USDA's Cooperative Extension Service.

State and Foreign Operations Appropriations (SFOPs)

U.S. Agency for International Development

Global Health Security

$900 million is needed in FY2024 for Global Health Security, as provided in the Senate SFOPs bill. USAID's global health security program provides technical assistance to partner countries to prevent and respond to rising rates of AMR in resource-limited settings, and requires increased resources to strengthen efforts to address the impacts of COVID-19 on AMR.

Tuberculosis Program and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria

We urge FY 2024 funding of $394.5 million for USAID's TB program as provided in the House and Senate SFOPs bills, and $2 billion for the Global Fund as provided in the House bill, to help staunch the growth of drug-resistant forms of tuberculosis and malaria. Drug-resistant forms of TB are driving rising AMR rates globally, particularly in resource-limited countries with underdeveloped healthcare infrastructure, and poses a significant threat to health security in the U.S. and globally.

Conclusion

Thank you for the attention given to combating antimicrobial resistance. We urge you to enact an omnibus appropriations package before the end of 2023 that fully supports the federal response to AMR in FY2024. Now more than ever, patients, public health and our nation's security all depend on your leadership and funding. If we can serve as a resource for your efforts, please have your staff contact Lisa Cox, IDSA Director of Government Relations, at lcox@idsociety.org.

Sincerely,

AdvaMedDx
Alliance for Aging Research
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges
American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
American College of Emergency Physicians
American Public Health Association
American Society for Microbiology
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
AMR.Solutions
AN2 Therapeutics
Antibiotic Resistance Action Center, the George Washington University
Appili Therapeutics
Arietis Corporation
ArrePath Inc.
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology

Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Astellas Pharma Global Development, Inc.
Bactria Pharmaceuticals, LLC
BD (Becton, Dickinson and Co.)
Beckman Coulter
Biomarker Collaborative
bioMerieux Inc.
Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO)
BioVersys AG
Blacksmith Medicines, Inc.
Boehringer Ingelheim Venture Fund USA
Bugworks Research
CancerCare
Clarametyx Biosciences, Inc.
Coalition of Skin Diseases
COPD Foundation
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
discoveric bio beta Ltd.
Element Materials Technology Iowa City
Emory Antibiotic Resistance Center
Exon 20 Group
Febris Therapeutics, Inc.
Food Animal Concerns Trust
Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership (GARDP)
Global Coalition on Aging
Greater San Diego Biological Solutions
GSK
Health Care Without Harm
HealthCare Institute of New Jersey (HINJ)
Hesed Medical Associates
ICAN, International Cancer Advocacy Network
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Jimma University
Kathera Bioscience, Inc
Locus Biosciences
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
Making-A-Difference in Infectious Diseases
MET Crusaders
Michigan Antibiotic Resistance Reduction Coalition
MyCARE
Mycoses Study Group and Education Consortium
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Athletic Trainers' Association
Novo Holdings Equity US Inc.
NTM Info & Research
Omniose
Omnix Medical

One Health Trust
PD-L1 Amplifieds
Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society
PIRG
Qeen BioTechnologies
ReNewVax Ltd
Sepsis Alliance
Seres Therapeutics
Small World Initiative
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
Society of Critical Care Medicine
Spina Bifida Association
Stuart B. Levy Center for Integrated Management of Antimicrobial Resistance at Tufts
TB Alliance
Trust for America's Health
University of Texas at San Antonio
Yeast Consulting Services
Zavante Royalty Corp

cc: The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
The Honorable Robert Aderholt
The Honorable Hal Rogers
The Honorable Barbara Lee
The Honorable Chris Coons
The Honorable Lindsey Graham
The Honorable Andy Harris
The Honorable Sanford Bishop
The Honorable Martin Heinrich
The Honorable John Hoeven