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October 25, 2017

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

Subject: Infectious Diseases Programs in FY2018 Appropriations Bills

Dear Chairman Cochran, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairman Frelinghuysen, and Ranking Member Lowey:

On behalf of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSAs), thank you for advancing appropriations bills for FY2018 that contain domestic and global investments necessary to protect public health, prevent and respond to outbreaks and other emergencies, and spur biomedical research. We were particularly pleased to see funding allocated to address the rapidly growing public health crisis of antimicrobial resistance (AR), HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, hepatitis, tuberculosis, vaccines and immunizations, influenza and emerging infectious diseases. As you continue your work to finalize funding for FY2018, **we urge you work with leadership and counterparts across the Hill to make certain that the Labor-HHS-Education, State and Foreign Operations, and Agriculture-FDA appropriations bills for FY 2018 are completed with full and robust funding levels for infectious diseases programs. To achieve these investments, Congress must move forward in bipartisan budget agreement that avoids sequestration, raises the spending caps, and gives priority to vital public health and biomedical research programs.**

IDSAs represents over 11,000 infectious diseases physicians and scientists devoted to patient care, prevention, public health, education, and research in the area of infectious diseases. Many of our members care for patients with serious infections, including pneumonia, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, as well infections that are resistant to many available antimicrobials. Our members also help combat emerging infectious diseases such as Ebola and Zika viruses.

Labor, Health, Human Services, and Related Agencies Appropriations National Institutes of Health

IDSAs is very grateful that the House and Senate rejected deep funding reductions proposed by the Trump Administration for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), particularly at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and the elimination of the Fogarty International Center. We urge funding of \$5.127 billion for NIAID, as included in the Senate Labor, Health, and Human Services (LHHS) bill that

would allow NIAID to address antibiotic resistance and support infectious diseases research on new treatments, diagnostics and vaccines for emerging infections and other infectious disease threats. This level of funding would also allow NIAID to continue development and implementation of programs designed to attract and to retain physician-scientists. Additionally, we urge \$74.380 million in funding provided in the Senate LHHS bill for the Fogarty Center to improve global health security and improve our ability to detect and respond to pandemics. Fogarty-funded breakthroughs have directed contributed to advances in such infections as HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, cancer, diabetes, and heart disease.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

IDSA is also deeply appreciative of funding for ID/HIV programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We strongly support \$163 million in funding for the Antibiotic Resistance Solutions Initiative as appropriated in both the Senate and House LHHS bills to reduce the emergence and spread of AR pathogens and to improve appropriate antibiotic use. We also advocate funding \$12 million for CDC's Healthcare-Associated Infections activities, \$21 million for the National Healthcare Safety Network, and \$30 million for the Advanced Molecular Detection Initiative as provided in both LHHS bills. We also advise funding at least \$26.410 million as provided in the House LHHS bill for vector borne diseases efforts to help reduce the impact of infections such as the Zika virus and tick-borne illnesses.

IDSA supports funding \$610 million in the Senate LHHS bill for the Section 317 Immunization Grant Program that would allow healthcare providers to obtain necessary vaccines. The program helps decrease the number of adults who die each year from vaccine-preventable illnesses, and helps prevent outbreaks of diseases due to inadequate vaccination rates. Recent examples are notable such as the recent spread of measles in Minnesota, mumps in Syracuse NY, and the growing hepatitis A outbreak in San Diego and other communities in California.

IDSA urges funding \$435 million for the agency's Global Health Program including \$128 million for global HIV/AIDS efforts as provided in the House LHHS bill. CDC global activities help protect Americans by strengthening health capacity, stopping health threats at their source before reaching American shores, and improving health outcomes worldwide. Funding would support the global HIV program, a key implementer of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which facilitates access to life-saving antiretroviral treatment for millions, including to pregnant women living with HIV halting transmission to their children. The CDC provides high quality technical support for surveillance, infection control, diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis in 25 high-burden countries, enhancing efforts by this funding.

We also ask that \$1.117 billion in FY2018 funding be provided for the CDC National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, as appropriated in the House and Senate bills. This funding will help reduce new HIV cases and to address the viral hepatitis epidemic, now much intensified as a consequence of opioid addiction. Additionally, these resources will support ongoing efforts to fight tuberculosis including multidrug-resistant (MDR) tuberculosis, and sexually-transmitted infections, particularly chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis. According to the CDC, their newly released Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance Report highlights more than two million cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis reported in the US last year—the highest number ever reported.

Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR)

IDSA urges FY2018 funding of \$520 million for the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), as provided in the House LHHS bill. This level includes \$192 million in funding to tackle antibiotic-resistant bacteria. The BARDA broad spectrum research program leverages partnerships with public and private partners to develop products that directly support the government-wide National

Action Plan for Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria. In recent years, efforts by BARDA and industry partners have resulted in new broad spectrum antibiotics.

Health Resources and Services Administration

We urge FY2018 funding for the Ryan White Program of \$2.319 billion, as provided in the House and Senate LHHS bills to help treat people with HIV and to control the HIV epidemic. The program serves the most vulnerable people living with HIV. For those who have neither public nor private insurance, it is their only source of HIV care and treatment.

State and Foreign Operations Appropriations

We stress the importance of funding \$4.32 billion for PEPFAR and \$1.35 billion for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, as provided in the House and Senate bills. IDSA also supports funding \$82.5 million for Global Health Security activities, as included in the House measure. Further, we recommend funding \$261 million for the tuberculosis program through the U.S. Agency for International Development as proposed in the Senate bill. PEPFAR is considered to be the most successful global health treatment initiative in history and its continued funding is necessary to achieve an AIDS-free generation. Support for the Global Fund and the USAID TB program will not only allow continued reductions in malaria and TB, but help staunch the growth of drug-resistant forms of these infections. Investing in global health security, including surveillance, laboratory infrastructure and training programs ensures we can swiftly response to emerging disease outbreaks.

Agriculture-Food and Drug Administration Appropriations

IDSA recommends full funding in FY2018 for AR efforts within the Department of Agriculture, including on-farm surveillance and data collection efforts. Experts agree that a One Health approach, including both human and animal health, is essential for combating antimicrobial resistance. Funding is needed so the U.S. Food and Drug Administration can continue to curb inappropriate antibiotic use in agricultural settings through additional veterinary oversight and promotion of antimicrobial stewardship.

Conclusion

Once again, we thank you for the attention given to infectious diseases and urge you to push for a bipartisan budget agreement and the completion of the FY 2018 spending bills by the end of this year. Patients as well as our nation's health and safety depend on your direction 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 or (703) 299-0202.

Sincerely,



Paul A. Auwaerter, MD, FIDSA
President, IDSA

CC: Majority Leader McConnell, Democratic Leader Schumer
Speaker Ryan, Democratic Leader Pelosi
Senators Blunt, Murray, Graham, Hoeven, Merkley
Representatives Cole, DeLauro, Rogers, Aderholt, Sanford Bishop