October 6, 2022

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

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

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

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

Subject: Antimicrobial Resistance Programs in FY2023 Appropriations Bills

Dear Chair DeLauro, Ranking Member Granger, Chair Leahy and Ranking Member Shelby:

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 avoid a long-term Continuing Resolution that would jeopardize the predictability that researchers and public health departments require and delay much needed increases in vital efforts included in proposed House and Senate appropriations bills 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. 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 are very grateful that House and Senate appropriators prioritized the federal response to AMR in their proposed bills, as evidenced by crucial increased investments in the CDC Antibiotic Resistance Solutions Initiative and other federal programs that address AMR, and Senate language endorsing the de-linkage of antibiotic revenues from sales in order to revitalize antibiotic research and development. 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 $212 million in funding for the Antibiotic Resistance Solutions Initiative in FY2023, as provided in the Senate-released LHHS bill. This funding would help expand antibiotic stewardship across the continuum of care; increase grant awards at the state and local level; expand the AR Laboratory Network globally and domestically to strengthen the identification, tracking and containment of deadly pathogens; support AMR research and Prevention Epicenters; and increase public and healthcare professional education and awareness activities.

Advanced Molecular Detection

We urge funding of $50 million in FY2023 as provided in the House and Senate LHHS bills to help ensure continued innovation in the detection and tracking of existing and emerging resistant pathogens. Funding would also help public health laboratories ensure integration of genomics into AMR surveillance and response, assist in the establishment of public-private "Centers of Excellence," focused on pathogen genomics and molecular epidemiology and support ongoing AMD activities.

National Healthcare Safety Network

We urge FY2023 funding of $31 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 the Subcommittee to provide $760 million in FY2023 funding as included in the House LHHS bill, including $353 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. Increased resources for this vital CDC program are needed to improve 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 $845 million as provided in the House 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 $800 million in funding for the Project BioShield Special Reserve Fund (SRF) as provided in the House 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.

We also applaud the inclusion of report language in the Senate-released LHHS explanatory statement that endorses a proposal included in the Administration's FY2023 budget to revitalize antimicrobial research and development by delinking antimicrobial revenue from volume of sales. This language aligns with the bipartisan Pioneering Antimicrobial Solutions to End Upsurging Resistance (PASTEUR) Act, and we and urge inclusion in any final funding bill.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

Within NIH, NIAID should be funded at $6.642 billion as included in the House LHHS bill, with $565 million for antimicrobial resistance research, as included in the Senate 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 address AMR while in supporting infectious diseases research.

Agriculture-FDA

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

FDA should be supported at $3.64 billion as included in the House Agriculture funding bill. Robust support for FDA is needed to continue efforts to complete the remaining goals of FDA's 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 completing work on setting duration limits for veterinary antibiotics. We support inclusion of report language in the House report language directing the FDA to move forward with the plan.

US Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

We urge funding of APHIS at $1,164,209,000 as provided by the House Agriculture funding bill including an increase for Zoonotic Disease Management to support National Animal Health Monitoring System Program to expand the collection and analysis of antimicrobial use and resistance data, and the collection of national level prevalence data on zoonotic diseases and for continued support for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network.

Agricultural Research

We support the increased funding of the research programs at USDA to $3.8 billion as provided by the House Agriculture bill including funding the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative at $500 million and increased support for Agricultural Research Service. These funds will enable USDA investigators and scientists at public universities, veterinary colleges and other research settings to better understand the 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

$1 billion is needed in FY2023 for Global Health Security, as provided in the House 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 2023 funding of $469 million for USAID's TB program as provided in the House SFOPs bill, and $2 billion for the Global Fund as provided in both the House and Senate bills, to help staunch the growth of drug-resistant forms of these infections. 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 2022 that prioritizes the federal response to AMR in FY2023. 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

Aequor Inc.

Alliance for Biosecurity

American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges

American Gastroenterological Association

American Society for Microbiology

American Society of Transplant Surgeons

American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

American Urological Association

AMR Patient Advocate

AMR.Solutions

Antibiotic Resistance Action Center, the George Washington University

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology

bioMerieux Inc.

BioVersys AG

Boehringer Ingelheim Venture Fund USA

Bugworks

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

Emory Antibiotic Resistance Center

Entasis Therapeutics

Food Animal Concerns Trust

Forge Therapeutics, Inc.

GARDP North America

Global Coalition on Aging

Global Health Technologies Coalition

GSK

Health Care Without Harm

HealthyWomen

HIV Medicine Association

Infectious Diseases Society of America

Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future

Locus Biosciences

Making-A-Difference in Infectious Diseases

Michigan Antibiotic Resistance Reduction Coalition

Microbion Corporation

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

National Hispanic Medical Association

Novo Holdings

Novo Nordisk Foundation

NTM Info & Research

Omniose

One Health Trust

Oragenics, Inc.

Partnership to Fight Infectious Disease

Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society

Peggy Lillis Foundation for C. diff Education & Advocacy

Peptilogics, Inc.

Phare Bio

Renal Physicians Association

Sepsis Alliance

Seres Therapeutics

Shionogi, Inc

Sinsa Labs

Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America

Society of Critical Care Medicine

Spero Therapeutics

The Gerontological Society of America

The Stuart B. Levy Center for Integrated Management of Antimicrobial Resistance

Trust for America's Health

Venatorx Pharmaceuticals

cc: The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable Roy Blunt
The Honorable Tom Cole
The Honorable Barbara Lee
The Honorable Hal Rogers
The Honorable Chris Coons
The Honorable Lindsey Graham
The Honorable Sanford Bishop
The Honorable Andy Harris
The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
The Honorable John Hoeven