

veterinarians, patients and advocates, we urge you to be mindful of the essential role of the federal public health and biomedical research workforce as you consider long-term policy regarding federal hiring. We are encouraged by reports that jobs that respond to public health and medical emergencies (such as the opioid epidemic, pandemic influenza, Ebola and Zika), as well as jobs related to food, drug and medical device safety are exempt from the current federal hiring freeze, and we appreciate your recognition that these jobs are essential to public safety and national security. We ask that the long-term federal hiring strategy reflect

threats, and to  
promote healthy communities.

Maintaining public health workforce capacity before an emergency occurs is necessary to ensure that an emergency is rapidly and accurately identified and that an effective response is triggered swiftly. Public health experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) take the lead in preparedness and response activities for major national and global public health emergencies, as well as for everyday threats including foodborne illness. CDC staff also lead important efforts to prevent serious illnesses and chronic diseases, including HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, antimicrobial resistant infections, heart disease, diabetes and many other diseases that pose a serious threat to public health and safety.

The healthcare and services, health workforce and health centers supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration in communities across the country are the first line of defense in preventing, detecting and responding to public health outbreaks and natural disasters at the local level. HRSA programs and staff working with other federal partners are critical to ensuring frontline capacity to manage public health emergencies. HRSA helps local service providers and health centers to be ready to respond through emergency preparedness and steps in during times of need, such as to support services for women and their babies affected by Zika and to control the HIV and hepatitis C outbreaks in Scott County, Indiana.

Biomedical research and public health go hand in hand. During an outbreak, public health responders need tools like vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics to save lives. We rely upon the National Institutes of Health to lead this critical research. While over 80% of NIH funding is awarded to external researchers, researchers at NIH conduct groundbreaking research on diseases and conditions that pose serious threats to public safety, including cancer, birth defects and infectious diseases. Further, NIH staff provide important coordination and support for more than

300,000 researchers at more than 2,500 universities, medical schools, and other research institutions.

Finally, staff at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are necessary to ensure the safety, efficacy and availability of life-saving therapeutics and devices to respond to pandemics, bioterror attacks and other public health emergencies, as well as more routine threats to public safety, including a host of serious diseases and conditions. essential role in ensuring the safety of our food supply, including helping to prevent foodborne illness.

Once again, we thank you for recognizing the essential role of the federal workforce in responding to public health emergencies and the recognition that many public health and biomedical research jobs are critical to protecting public safety and national security. Moving forward, we look forward to working with you to protect and strengthen the workforce across the public health continuum. We would welcome the opportunity to help inform your longer term federal hiring policies.

Sincerely,

AcademyHealth

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

African American Health Alliance

AIDS Action Baltimore

AIDS Alabama South, LLC

AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families

The AIDS Institute

AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta

Alabaster

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American

CHOW Project  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc.  
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America  
Consumer Federation of America

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists  
Council on Social Work Education  
Dementia Alliance International  
Emory Antibiotic Resistance Center  
Endocrine Society  
Every Child By Two  
Gerontological Society of America  
Harm Reduction Coalition  
Healthcare Ready  
HealthHIV  
Healthy Teen Network  
Heart Failure Society of America  
Hep Free Hawaii  
HIV Dental Alliance  
HIV Medicine Association  
Immunization Action Coalition  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
International Association of Forensic Nurses  
Iowa Public Health Association  
The Jeffrey Modell Foundation  
Lung Cancer Alliance  
March of Dimes  
Meharry Medical College  
Microbion Corporation  
Midwest Asian Health Association  
Morehouse School of Medicine  
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

National Black Justice Coalition  
National Blood Clot Alliance  
National Coalition for LGBT Health  
National Coalition of STD Directors  
National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians  
National Environmental Health Association  
National Family Planning (( A

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National Medical Association  
National Minority AIDS Council  
National Safety Council  
National TB Controllers Association  
Nile's Project MRSA  
Noah Homes  
Obesity Action Coalition  
Obesity Medicine Association  
The Obesity Society  
ONCORD, Inc.  
One Health Commission  
OraSure Technologies  
OWL-The Voice of Women 40+  
Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society  
Peggy Lillis Foundation  
Population Council  
POZ Military-Veterans USA INTL  
Prevention Access Campaign  
Prevention Institute  
Project Inform  
Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition  
Renal Physicians Association  
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition  
Society for Health Psychology  
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America  
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
Society of Critical Care Medicine  
Spero Therapeutics  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative  
Treatment Action Group  
Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine  
Youth Movement Against Alzheimer's