

Public Health Infrastructure Saves Lives Act

Senators Murray, Casey, Menendez, Van Hollen, Duckworth, Brown, Merkley, Bennet, Warren, Markey, Hirono, Baldwin, Rosen, Schatz, Klobuchar, Reed, Smith, Blumenthal, and Durbin

In the last six months, 200,000 Americans have died from COVID-19. This pandemic has highlighted the gaps in our existing public health infrastructure, and the need to invest in a system that allows us to respond to health crises like this one. This legislation will provide much needed funding to establish a core public health infrastructure program.

- Almost one half of Americans are not served by a comprehensive public health system.
- Over 56,000 public health jobs were eliminated between 2008 and 2017.
- Experts estimate the public health system is short \$4.5 billion of what is needed to build a sound public health infrastructure.

This legislation calls for funding to improve our public health system in amounts that will reach \$4.5 billion annually in FY2025 and beyond. This money will be distributed in grants by the CDC to state, territorial, local, and tribal health departments to assess and address core public health infrastructure needs. There will be priority for plans that target infrastructure needs related to fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, there will be funding to develop and implement an accreditation program to ensure public health departments are meeting rigorous standards.

The core public health functionalities that this bill will support include:

- **Assessment:** tracking the health of a community through activities like testing and tracing
- **Preparedness and Response:** the capacity to respond quickly to public health emergencies
- **Policy development:** the ability to translate science into policy and regulations
- **Communication:** sharing information publicly in a timely, accurate, and clear manner
- **Community Partnership Development:** aligning community resources and organizations to advance the public health through strategic partnerships
- **Organizational Competencies:** leading stakeholders to consensus and action
- **Accountability and Performance Management:** applying best practices to improve performance and quality, achieve desired outcomes, and foster workforce development
- **Equity:** Using a public health infrastructure to address and correct health disparities and to advance equity in all communities

This legislation is supported by over fifty public health organizations: American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, The Family Resource Network, Autism Family Services of New Jersey, Caregivers of New Jersey, Epilepsy Services of New Jersey, Epilepsy Alliance of America, Health Leadership Legacy Project, American Association of Health and Disability, Lakeshore Foundation, Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials, Delaware Academy of Medicine/Delaware Public Health Association, American Thoracic Society, American Society for Microbiology, Immunize Nevada, Nevada Public Health Association, Caring Ambassadors Program, Bipartisan Policy Center Action, Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum, Foundation for Healthy Generations, Global Liver Institute, Montana Public Health Association, Hope and Help, Association of Public Health Laboratories, Spina Bifida Association, National Association of County and City Health Officials, Trust for America's Health, New York State Public Health Association, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, Association of State and Territorial Health Officers, Prevent Blindness, American Heart Association, Safe States Alliance, Public Health Institute, Public Health Accreditation Board, HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute, Public Health Seattle & King County, Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health, Gerontological Society of America, Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc., Health By Design, Indiana Public Health Association, Alliance for Aging Research, Entomological Society of America, CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers, Wisconsin Public Health Association, Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards, New Jersey Public Health Association, American Clinical Laboratory Association, Association of State Public Health Nutritionists, American Lung Association, Association of American Medical Colleges, Prevention Institute, Washington State Department of Health, Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, American Mosquito Control Association, National WIC Association, March of Dimes, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees