

## Working Group on Pandemic Influenza Preparedness

January 25, 2006

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
United States Senate/U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510/20515

Dear Senator/Representative \_\_\_\_\_:

On behalf of the Working Group on Pandemic Flu Preparedness, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your efforts to adequately protect the nation from a pandemic influenza outbreak. The \$3.8 billion contained in the Department of Defense appropriations measure, PL 109-148, serves as an important down payment towards jumpstarting efforts by a number of federal agencies to enhance pandemic preparedness and provides important resources for upgrading state and local public health activities with respect to pandemic flu surveillance and containment strategies.

But of course, more needs to be done. We will be closely monitoring the President's FY 2007 budget submission to ensure that full funding is allocated for implementing the Administration's November 2005 pandemic flu request. We also are eagerly awaiting the Administration's government-wide pandemic flu plan and expect that additional funding will be needed in FY 2007 to implement that plan. We urge Congress to make this a high priority in the new session.

The Working Group on Pandemic Flu Preparedness looks forward to working with you and your colleagues in the coming months to fill in any remaining gaps relative to vaccine production, stockpiling antiviral medication and other medical supplies, contingency planning, risk communications, surge capacity, availability of diagnostics and reagents, victim compensation and health care worker protections, state and local public health preparedness activities, including workforce recruitment and training, and enhancing the nation's commitment to global pandemic planning, containment strategies, and human, wildlife and domestic animal surveillance.

Again, we thank you for your leadership with respect to pandemic flu preparedness and your ongoing commitment to protecting the health of Americans.

Sincerely,

American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees  
American Public Health Association  
Association for Professionals in Infection Control & Epidemiology  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Campaign for Public Health  
Center for Biosecurity, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center  
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists  
Federation of American Scientists  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
Service Employees International Union  
RetireSafe  
Trust for America's Health  
Wildlife Conservation Society