

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 26, 2010

Thomas Frieden, MD, Ph.D.
Director
Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Rd
Atlanta GA 30329-4018

Dear Dr. Frieden:

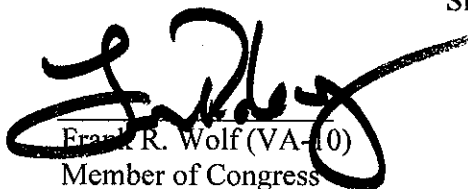
With recent enactment of the fiscal year 2010 omnibus appropriations act, we want to call your attention to the funding levels included for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with regard to vector-borne disease. At our urging, the conference report includes an increase in funding for Lyme disease-related activities of more than \$3.6 million over the fiscal year 2009 level, bringing the total for fiscal year 2010 to \$8.9 million.

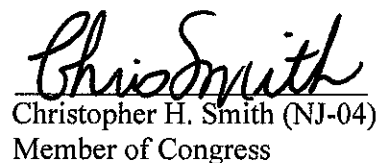
As you may know, the House Appropriations Committee (July 17, 2009) and the Senate Appropriations Committee (July 30, 2009) both approved identical report language accompanying this Lyme disease research funding increase. The committees in both chambers have called on the CDC to develop a more sensitive and more accurate diagnostic test for Lyme disease, including evaluating emerging diagnostic testing to account for the multiple clinical manifestations of acute and chronic Lyme. The committees are also interested in improved surveillance and reporting of Lyme, CDC evaluation of the feasibility of development of a national Lyme reporting system, and expansion of community-based public education efforts including the creation of a physician education program with the full spectrum of scientific research on the disease. We hope you will move quickly to access your current efforts with regard to Lyme disease and work to implement these objectives.

Please do not hesitate to contact us or our staff members, Tim Lynagh (Rep. Smith - 202-225-3765) or Janet Shaffron (Rep. Wolf - 202-225-5136) if we can be of assistance.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,


Frank R. Wolf (VA-10)
Member of Congress


Christopher H. Smith (NJ-04)
Member of Congress

FRW:jp
enclosures

Budget activity	FY 2010 Committee	FY 2010 Committee compared to—	
		FY 2009	FY 2010 Budget request
Vector-borne Diseases, including West Nile Virus	\$26,717,000	+\$418,000	\$0
Lyme Disease	8,938,000	+3,668,000	+3,668,000
Food Safety	26,942,000	+4,422,000	0
Prion Disease	5,474,000	+86,000	0
Chronic Fatigue Syndrome	4,825,000	+75,000	0

Food Safety.—The Committee supports CDC's increased investment in food safety. Improving foodborne outbreak detection and response remains a critical priority for CDC, as well as the Federal, State, and local food safety regulatory agencies. CDC's proposed enhancement of PulseNet and other surveillance tools and capacities will help ensure continuing improvement in this area. The Committee also believes that an equally important priority for CDC is to invest in generating the epidemiological data and conducting the analyses that regulatory agencies and the food industry need to target to implement effective prevention strategies. The Committee expects CDC to focus an increasing share of its management attention and resources on such prevention-related activities and to work closely with the Food and Drug Administration and other key parties to help prevent foodborne illness.

Lyme Disease.—The Committee encourages CDC to expand its activities related to developing sensitive and more accurate diagnostic tools and tests for Lyme disease, including the evaluation of emerging diagnostic methods and improving utilization of diagnostic testing to account for the multiple clinical manifestations of acute and chronic Lyme disease; to expand its epidemiological research activities on tick-borne diseases to include an objective to determine the long-term course of illness for Lyme disease; to improve surveillance and reporting of Lyme and other tick-borne diseases in order to produce more accurate data on their prevalence; to evaluate the feasibility of developing a national reporting system on Lyme disease, including laboratory reporting; and to expand prevention of Lyme and tick-borne diseases through increased community-based public education and creating a physician education program that includes the full spectrum of scientific research on the diseases.

Preparedness, Detection, and Control of Infectious Diseases

The Committee provides \$173,791,000 for Preparedness, Detection, and Control of Infectious Diseases, which is \$16,365,000 more than the fiscal year 2009 funding level and \$5,050,000 more than the budget request. In addition, the Recovery Act provided an additional \$40,000,000 in the Prevention and Wellness Fund for States to develop and implement healthcare-associated infection reduction plans in fiscal years 2009 and 2010.

The National Center for Preparedness, Detection, and Control of Infectious Diseases provides focus on preparedness and response capacity for new and complex infectious disease outbreaks, and manages and coordinates emerging infectious diseases, integrates laboratory groups, and facilitates increased quality and capacity in clinical laboratories. The Center serves as a focal point for engaging outside agencies and partners in quality laboratory systems and improved healthcare settings.

Antimicrobial Resistance.—The Committee remains concerned by the emergence of life-threatening antimicrobial resistant pathogens in hospital and community settings. The Committee is pleased that CDC has set up a surveillance network similar to a sentinel surveillance system and encourages CDC to continue making such systems easy to use and compatible with the emergence of health information technology.

Lyme Disease.—The Committee encourages the CDC to expand its activities related to developing sensitive and more accurate diagnostic tools and tests for Lyme disease including the timely evaluation of emerging diagnostic methods and improving utilization of diagnostic testing to account for the multiple clinical manifestations of acute and chronic Lyme disease; to expand its epidemiological research activities on tick-borne diseases [TBDs] to include an objective to determine the long-term course of illness for Lyme disease; to improve surveillance and reporting of Lyme and other TBDs in order to produce more accurate data on the prevalence of the Lyme and other TBDs; to evaluate the feasibility of developing a national reporting system on Lyme including laboratory reporting; and to expand prevention of Lyme and TBDs through increased community-based public education and creating a physician education program that includes the full spectrum of scientific research on the diseases.

Syringe Re-use.—The Committee remains concerned about the re-use of syringes and other infection control errors. The Committee is pleased that the CDC Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee is at work developing additional infection control guidance specifically for outpatient settings and that the CDC is planning to convene meetings with academia and industry to explore the development of “fail safe” systems and products. In addition, the Committee continues to support the CDC’s education and outreach campaign. The Committee requests that the CDC report to the Committee on the progress of those efforts by April 15, 2010.

HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention

The Committee has included \$1,028,680,000 for the activities at this Center in fiscal year 2010. The fiscal year 2009 level was \$1,006,375,000 and the 2010 budget request was \$1,060,299,000. The Committee has included funding for the following activities at the following amounts:

(In thousands of dollars)

Activity	Fiscal year 2009 comparable	Fiscal year 2010 budget	Committee recommendation
HIV/AIDS	691,861	744,914	711,045
Viral Hepatitis	18,316	18,367	18,367
Tuberculosis	143,870	144,268	144,268

Hepatitis Testing.—The Committee encourages the CDC to expand testing and continue to validate interventions focused on the mother-child transmission issue and other efforts targeted on the prevention of the hepatitis B virus in the Asian-American community where currently 1 in 10 individuals are infected with the hepatitis B virus.