



Promoting Sexual Health
Through STD Prevention

NCSDDC.ORG

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June 9, 2022

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing today to request that your administration advance a \$100 million funding request to Congress to accommodate a coordinated federal monkeypox response and for you to convene a summit at the White House this month to address the monkeypox outbreak.

As representatives of the nation's public health leaders fighting the STD crisis, the National Coalition of STD Directors is concerned that chronic underfunding for the STD field and the disruption of the field by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic will limit the nation's ability to mount an effective response to monkeypox unless more funding is provided. The virus, in its current presentation, mimics symptoms of common STDs and low awareness about the virus and how it spreads has impeded control efforts. States and communities have already wisely tapped our field's expertise in disease detection, contact tracing, symptom monitoring, and community education, as well as our community connections. While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has taken important steps in the initial response, we cannot halt an expanding outbreak at current funding levels or without significant collaboration among stakeholders.

We are asking you to take two immediate actions to ensure an effective monkeypox response and limit the spread of the virus in our communities, as follows:

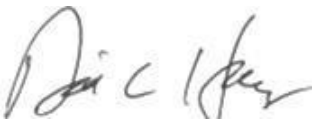
1. **Convene a monkeypox summit at the White House this month** to bring together CDC, NIH and FDA scientists; public health leaders; advocates and community representatives to work toward a unified response;
2. **Advance a \$100 million funding request to Congress, including at least \$30 million for the STD field funded through the STD division of CDC**, to ensure the nation has the resources and infrastructure it needs to conduct the following:

- Scale outreach efforts to people in specific communities, including but not limited to the gay community and MSM community, so people are armed with the information they need to protect themselves;
- Support clinical education to help physicians and other health care professionals to identify and properly diagnose monkeypox and differentiate it from other STDs, and connect patients with treatment, social services and other health care;
- Develop better diagnostic tools and build up real-time surveillance and outbreak detection;
- Bolster the public health workforce to ensure an adequate response to monkeypox and prevent the current outbreak from further exacerbating rising STD rates;
- Prepare to administer vaccines to communities and healthcare workers if the need arises.

Mr. President, we applaud your Administration's commitment to improving the public health system in the United States. We are entering this outbreak with critical lessons learned from both the HIV and STD epidemics, and the COVID pandemic, and we cannot afford missteps. We need real-time data collection efforts, a public health system that can respond swiftly and accurately to infectious disease outbreaks, and we need the science behind effective interventions. This requires funding and leadership.

Thank you for considering this request. If any member of your team has questions or needs additional information, please contact me at dharvey@ncsddc.org or by calling 202-734-1289.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David C. Harvey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being the most prominent.

David C. Harvey
Executive Director