

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2026

Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

As you begin crafting the FY'27 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we respectfully request your support for the Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

We request \$322.5 million for state and local STI prevention programs efforts, which includes \$98 million to ensure that currently funded state and local health departments operate at no less than the FY'26 enacted level.

Including this critical funding and directive language is essential to effectively address the growing STI crisis nationwide. The CDC's most recent data shows that the United States reported more than 2.2 million STI cases in 2024. Of particular concern, congenital syphilis cases have risen for twelve consecutive years — increasing nearly tenfold during that time.

Sustained federal investment is vital to reversing these trends. Recent progress demonstrates that targeted public health investments work: reported cases of chlamydia and gonorrhea have declined, signaling that prevention, testing, and treatment efforts are making a measurable impact. The continued investment in state and local health departments will help build on this momentum, strengthen surveillance and response capacity, and ultimately reduce all STI cases — including congenital syphilis.

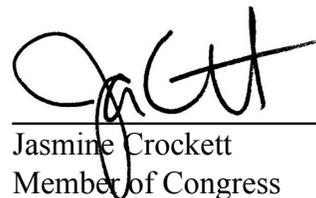
We urge you to support this funding request and accompanying language to ensure that public health departments have the tools necessary to protect communities across the country.

Thank you for your continued leadership and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



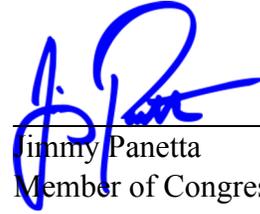
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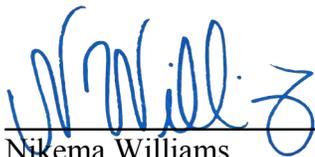
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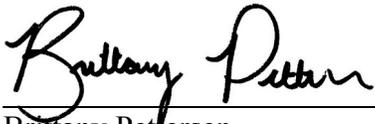
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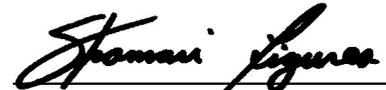
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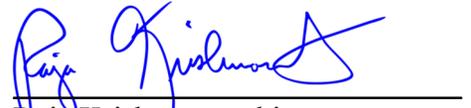
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