

April 10, 2026

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Chair  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Chair  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairs Moore Capito, Aderholt, and Ranking Members Baldwin and DeLauro,

As you and your colleagues develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Clinical Standardization Programs be increased to enable the agency to further its essential work in standardizing or “harmonizing” the reporting of clinical laboratory test results. Investment in these programs will yield significant dividends improving patient care, driving down costs, and is foundational to the advancement of next-generation healthcare technology.

Clinical laboratory testing plays an essential role in medical decision-making, providing essential data for diagnosis, treatment, and disease management. However, test results obtained from one laboratory are often not directly comparable to the same test performed at another, even if both results are accurate within their respective methodologies. These variations in different laboratory results can introduce confusion in diagnosis, improper treatment decisions, and raise costs across the healthcare system. This problem is often apparent with testing performed for chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, kidney and bone diseases, certain cancers, and conditions important to women’s health like polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS).

As healthcare data analytics and AI-driven decision support tools become increasingly integrated into clinical practice, harmonization of laboratory data is essential. The Food and Drug Administration’s Standardization of Lab Data to Enhance Patient-Centered Outcomes Research and Value-Based Care (SHIELD) collaborative community of healthcare stakeholders have recognized the critical importance of this issue in their strategic plan. Additionally, a report issued by the Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Artificial Intelligence has further underscored the critical need for uniform standards in healthcare, stating in its key findings that

Page Two  
April 10, 2026

"the lack of ubiquitous, uniform standards for medical data and algorithms impedes system interoperability and data sharing. If AI tools cannot easily connect with all relevant medical systems, their adoption and use could be impeded."

By establishing robust standardized frameworks, CDC's harmonization efforts complement private-sector innovation and help in vitro diagnostics (IVD) manufacturers and clinical laboratories develop more accurate tests and remain globally competitive. The investments Congress has made have allowed CDC Clinical Standardization Programs to improve test quality, improve testing devices, and collaborate with strategic partners to expand standardization and drive adoption.

To build on this momentum, the undersigned organizations urge Congress to provide an additional \$7.2 million for the CDC's Environmental Health Laboratory in FY 2027. Continued support will strengthen private-sector innovation, support advances in innovative healthcare technology, and improve health outcomes.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and stand ready to serve as a resource on laboratory testing harmonization.

Sincerely,

American Clinical Laboratory Association  
American Medical Technologists  
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science  
American Society for Microbiology  
ARUP Labs  
Association for Diagnostics & Laboratory Medicine  
Association of Public Health Laboratories  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH)  
Big Cities Health Coalition  
COLA, Inc.  
College of American Pathologists  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
PCOS Challenge: The National Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Association  
Pediatric Endocrine Society  
Quest Diagnostics  
Roche Diagnostics  
Siemens Healthineers Diagnostics