

**Representative Ted Lieu (CA-33)**  
**Testimony to the House Appropriations Committee**  
**June 23, 2020**

Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Granger, and Members of the Committee, I would like to commend you for holding this Member Day and providing Members with the opportunity to share their thoughts on fiscal year 2021 spending priorities despite the physical limitations presented by the pandemic. Today, I would like to highlight my top two appropriations priorities: combating chronic diseases and compiling data on pretrial detention.

**Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies – Chronic Disease Education and Awareness Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

On March 13, a bipartisan group of 13 colleagues and I wrote to the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies to establish a \$5 million Chronic Disease Education and Awareness Program within the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021:

Program Request  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

*Chronic Disease Education and Awareness.—The Committee recognizes CDC’s work with stakeholders to expand public health education and awareness activities that help improve surveillance, diagnosis, and proper treatment for chronic diseases. The Committee includes \$5,000,000 for a new effort to award grants to address chronic diseases and their risk factors that do not already have a specialized account under CDC in this report. This approach would utilize a competitive grant process to strengthen the science base for prevention, education, and public health awareness for a variety of chronic diseases.*

In recent years, CDC has prioritized activities with dedicated funding streams over annual efforts supported by discretionary resources. As a result, some successful public health campaigns have ended prematurely, causing emerging high-impact proposals to never be initiated. This dynamic has prevented many stakeholder organizations from collaborating with CDC in a meaningful way on public health efforts that improve patient outcomes and lower healthcare costs. Establishing the Chronic Disease Education and Awareness Program will address this challenge by providing a competitive pool of resources that public health experts at CDC can deploy through community collaborations to address areas of unmet need.

This program is a top priority for the chronic disease and public health stakeholder community. I was pleased to see that a similar request was supported by Subcommittee Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro last year and was included in the FY20 House Committee on Appropriations report. It's unfortunate, however, that the request did not survive the conference process. That is why I respectfully ask that the committee support funding for a Chronic Disease Education and Awareness Program at CDC once again.

### **Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies – Pretrial Detention Data Collection**

For Fiscal Year 2020, I was grateful that the Committee included my request for report language on pretrial data collection. On March 13, 36 of my colleagues and I wrote to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies urging you to again include the following report language for pretrial detention data collection at the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) within the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs:

*Report Language Request: "The Committee directs the Bureau of Justice Statistics to collect annual information analyzing the population of individuals detained pretrial in local jails, State and Federal facilities, and private facilities under contract to Federal, State, and local authorities and report back to the Committee annually with the first report due within 180 days of the date of enactment of this Act. The report should include the number of individuals detained pretrial; the median duration of the pretrial detention period; the number of individuals detained pretrial who were offered financial release or not offered financial release; and the number of individuals who were offered financial release but remained detained because they could not pay the amount required. All data should be disaggregated by demographic and the level of the offense charged."*

On any given day, more than two million people are incarcerated in the United States, of whom 450,000 individuals have not been convicted of the crime with which they are charged. In jails alone, 65 percent of inmates are awaiting trial and most are unable to afford bail. Several state and local jurisdictions are considering reforms to their pretrial detention systems to transition to a system that does not rely on money bail and in which a person's freedom prior to trial is not dependent on their wealth. In order to enact effective policies, it is important that lawmakers have access to the pretrial detention data outlined in my request.

Thank you again for considering my requests and for holding this year's Member Day. I greatly appreciate the tireless work and effort that you and your staff have done to ensure that our appropriations process moves forward despite the challenging environment.