



AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

For science. For action. For health.

May 21, 2015

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the American Public Health Association, a diverse community of public health professionals who champion the health of all people and communities, I write in support of the sentiments shared by seven U.S. Senators in a Feb. 12, 2015 letter to you advocating for a multidisciplinary “One Health” approach to pandemic prevention. This approach considers the integral connections between human, animal and environmental health to more effectively address current and future zoonotic disease threats.

In light of increasing pressures from global environmental and demographic change, as well as rapid trade and travel, APHA recognizes the value of a One Health approach for addressing known and emerging zoonotic disease threats for the United States. As seen with the current Ebola crisis, as well as HIV/AIDS, infectious zoonotic disease introduction into the United States poses major acute and long-term public health risks. Globally, zoonotic diseases cause over one billion cases and millions of deaths per year, as well as significant financial impacts.

APHA supports the One Health Commission, which serves as a platform for One Health discussions. Our members are actively advancing One Health practice domestically and internationally, helping to move public health systems toward prevention rather than more resource-intensive responses. APHA’s membership includes many professionals from organizations committed to implementing One Health on the ground, including doctors, veterinarians and other public health professionals working within local public health departments, federal agencies, academic institutions, public health nonprofits and other medical organizations. We have seen that One Health has a role to play in all of these settings, but unfortunately national frameworks to reinforce One Health fall short in enabling proactive consideration of disease threats at the human-animal-environment interface.

APHA strongly supports national efforts to strengthen prevention of pandemics, and stands ready to assist in the promotion of One Health frameworks. We welcome the opportunity to provide additional input at any point.

Thank you for your attention to this critically-needed approach to support public health in the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Georges C. Benjamin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Georges C. Benjamin, MD
Executive Director