



## COALITION *for* HEALTH FUNDING



September 17, 2014

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jack Kingston  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education, and Related  
Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

On behalf of more than [1,000 national organizations](#) in the health, research, education, social services, and job training communities, we commend Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro and her cohorts on introducing their Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for fiscal year (FY) 2015. This bill attempts to fill the void created by the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee, which for three of the last four years has not reported a standalone spending bill for these critical programs. To continue funding these programs on autopilot—and on a downward trajectory—without deliberative discussion in an open forum is an abdication of Congress’s Constitutional “power of the purse.”

The “Labor-HHS” bill is the largest of the nondefense discretionary spending bills and has historically been known as the “people’s bill” because the programs funded through it touch the lives of all Americans. It includes funding for everything from workforce training to biomedical research, from early childhood education through graduate medical education, and from disease monitoring and prevention to employment services and beyond. Despite the importance and breadth of the programs funded by this bill, it is often the most controversial and hardest to pass. In fact, it has been more 15 years since a Labor-HHS funding bill has been enacted through regular order. The American people expect and deserve better.

The Democrats’ Labor-HHS bill demonstrates how we can invest in Americans while staying within the strict spending allocation established by the full Appropriations Committee earlier this year. More importantly, it gives Americans a clear picture of where their hard earned dollars could be spent to build the type of America that puts its citizens first.

With so much at stake, elected officials must be willing to be held accountable for their decisions. We implore the House Appropriations Majority to move forward with Labor-HHS Appropriations by openly considering this bill—either through a markup, or by including it in omnibus legislation for FY 2015.

Sincerely,

Rachel Gragg, Campaign to Invest in America’s Workforce (202-223-8991 or [rachelg@nationalskillscoalition.org](mailto:rachelg@nationalskillscoalition.org))  
Emily Holubowich, Coalition for Health Funding (202-484-1100 or [eholubowich@dc-crd.com](mailto:eholubowich@dc-crd.com))  
Joel Packer, Committee for Education Funding (202-383-0083 or [JPacker@cef.org](mailto:JPacker@cef.org))