

COALITION *for* HEALTH FUNDING

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HOUSE BUDGET: MORE OF THE SAME FAILED POLICIES

Lawmakers Must Dispense with Symbolic Statement Budgets and Work Together to Raise the Caps, Restore Regular Order

Once again, the House's proposed budget resolution violates the established principle of parity by cutting nondefense discretionary (NDD) programs by \$1.3 trillion over the next decade to boost the Pentagon's budget. Lawmakers do so knowing based on past experience that this violation will inevitably be rejected by Democrats who will be needed to enact spending bills, and that such cuts are untenable—as evidenced by Congress' bipartisan rejection of the President's draconian budget request for fiscal year (FY) 2018.

The Coalition for Health Funding agrees that Americans' safety and security should be prioritized in the budget. However, cutting health and other NDD programs in the name of increasing the defense budget compromises American's health security. Public health hazards such as Zika virus, opioid abuse, antibiotic resistance, diabetes, obesity, cancer, foodborne illness, lead poisoning, and others demonstrate the need for continued investment by the federal government in America's health.

Every day, in important ways most Americans don't even realize, the federal government supports health programs that keep them safe and secure. The agencies and programs of the Department of Health and Human Services conduct health research; prevent disease, disability, and injury; assure food and drug safety; protect and respond in times of crisis; educate the next generation of scientists, health care providers, and public health professionals; and provide our nation's most vulnerable access to care.

The House budget resolution would decimate the funding for NDD programs in FY 2018 and over the next decade. As evidenced by the House's FY 2018 appropriations bills that reflect the proposed budget's spending topline for NDD programs, these cuts will mean fewer health research grants, fewer preventive screenings, fewer vaccinations, fewer services available for those who need support the most, fewer food inspectors, and fewer future medical professionals.

"As the cliché goes, one definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result," said Emily Holubowich, Executive Director of the Coalition for Health Funding. "The core pillar of the House's past and present budget resolutions—cutting nondefense to boost defense—has been proven unworkable and unrealistic for at least the last five years. Congress and the administration should work together now to negotiate a *bipartisan* budget agreement that stops sequestration and raises the austere spending caps for both defense and nondefense programs."

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The Coalition for Health Funding is a nonprofit alliance working to preserve public health investments in the interest of all Americans. Our 95 member organizations together represent more than 100 million patients and consumers, health providers, professionals, and researchers.

<http://www.publichealthfunding.org>