

# COALITION *for* HEALTH FUNDING

Emily J. Holubowich, MPP, Executive Director

December 11, 2014

Dear Member of Congress,

The Coalition for Health Funding—on behalf of its 96 member organizations representing the full breadth of constituent support for discretionary health programs—strongly urges you to **vote “YES” on “Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015” (HR 83).**

No country runs effectively on autopilot. The annual budget and appropriations process is vital to the American government’s ability to respond to the ever changing challenges that Americans face. While far from perfect, this bipartisan legislation provides critical funding and certainty for the Department of Health and Human Services, its principle agencies—AHRQ, CDC, FDA, HRSA, Indian Health Service, NIH, SAMHSA—operating divisions, and offices and programs that support and protect America’s health. Certainly more funding is needed to rebuild critical public health and health research programs, but in general, the funding provided by HR 83 is a positive step in reversing the damage caused by austerity and years of disinvestment.

In addition, HR 83 provides much needed emergency, supplemental funding to support the nation’s response to Ebola. The Ebola outbreak in West Africa is a public health emergency that could not have been foreseen. To best protect Americans, we must stop the disease at its source. To ensure that the Public Health Service agencies are able to respond appropriately to Ebola and maintain their ongoing work to combat other health threats, Congress must provide emergency, supplemental funding to support the immediate Ebola response.

Public health is an essential pillar of national security and one that the government alone is equipped to provide. Now more than ever, the public health and health research enterprise needs the certainty and stability provided by HR 83 to respond to pressing challenges that threaten Americans’ physical and mental health. Congress must act pass HR 83 to provide the public health continuum with the resources needed to combat all health threats, both here and abroad.

Sincerely,



Donald Hoppert, President



Emily J. Holubowich, Executive Director

<http://www.publichealthfunding.org>