

# COALITION *for* HEALTH FUNDING

Emily J. Holubowich, MPP, Executive Director

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Dear Member of Congress:

The Coalition for Health Funding supports the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 and particularly Division H—The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act contained therein. **We urge you to join us in supporting this legislation.**

The omnibus recognizes that health is a national priority and provides a much needed boost to public health by beginning to reinvest in the agencies and programs of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Together, HHS' agencies and programs keep Americans performing at their best in school, at work, and in this nation's military. In this challenging budget environment, we especially appreciate efforts to balance critical investments across the public health continuum. In so doing, this bill demonstrates a strong commitment to improving health holistically through prevention, treatment, service delivery, and research.

We also appreciate that the Labor-HHS bill has been included in the omnibus—the first Labor-HHS spending bill since FY 2012—rather than rely again on a continuing resolution (CR) to fund critical public health activities. The Labor-HHS bill represents the largest of the nondefense discretionary 302(b) allocations, and its programs and services impact every American. The fact that it is included in the omnibus is a welcome step in the right direction and opens channels for future public debate on the worthiness of the programs in the bill.

Of course, the omnibus is far from perfect. The additional resources provided by the Bipartisan Budget Act have helped to restore some harmful sequestration cuts, but the funding available for public health remains too low; well below FY 2010 funding levels, even without adjusting for inflation. Nonetheless, the Coalition for Health Funding calls on Congress to pass the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 without delay. Once stability has been restored, we encourage Congress and the administration to build on this bipartisan momentum, restore regular order to the appropriations process, and continue working in a bipartisan fashion to find a permanent replacement to sequestration.

Sincerely,



Emily J. Holubowich, MPP  
Executive Director

<http://www.publichealthfunding.org>