

# COALITION *for* HEALTH FUNDING

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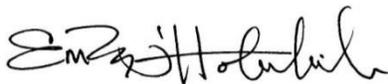
On behalf of the Coalition for Health Funding—the oldest and largest nonprofit alliance working to preserve and strengthen public health investments in the best interest of all Americans—we **urge you to vote no on H.J. Res. 128**, the latest continuing resolution (CR) proposed in the House of Representatives. This bill fails to stop sequestration and raise the austere spending caps for both defense and nondefense discretionary programs. Instead, it provides significant increases for the Department of Defense and continues a budgetary holding pattern for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Continuing resolutions and tight budget caps are damaging to all federal agencies and programs, not just the Department of Defense. Under a CR, Congress is unable to increase HHS funding levels for programs based on emerging health threats and evolving health needs. Further, this uncertainty delays the disbursement of medical research grants for cutting edge discoveries, grants that support public health first-responders fighting disease on the frontlines, and grants that help provide critical health services. Coupled with years of austerity that has left most nondefense agencies with lost purchasing power and eroding budgets, these continued delays hurt Americans at home and abroad.

In addition, the Coalition for Health Funding urges you to oppose H.J. Res. 128 because it would drastically hamper our nation's ability to control outbreaks, address the opioid epidemic, and keep the nation healthy and secure. As currently written, the CR "robs Peter to pay Paul" by once cutting the Prevention and Public Health Fund to pay for community health centers, the National Health Service Corps, teaching health centers, and other health programs. The Coalition for Health Funding strongly supports the swift reauthorization of funding for these essential health care services, but not at the expense of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Americans' health security—a pillar of national security—is compromised each day that the government is funded by a CR. With more than a third of the fiscal year now past, Congress must reach a bipartisan deal to stop sequestration, raise the budget caps, and provide full year appropriations for the entirety of the federal government. Such a deal should recognize the role of HHS and other nondefense agencies in enhancing Americans' security by maintaining the parity principle of equal relief for defense and nondefense discretionary activities set forth in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 and 2015. Further, any deal to extend mandatory health programs should not be offset by cuts to the very funds that help keep people healthy. Thus, we once again urge you to vote no on H.J. Res. 128.

Sincerely,



Emily J. Holubowich  
Executive Director

<http://www.publichealthfunding.org>