

# COALITION *for* HEALTH FUNDING

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**Washington, D.C., May 23, 2017** – Today, the President released the administration’s official budget request for fiscal year (FY) 2018. The proposal cuts discretionary health programs by more than any other administration in history, and in just one year would more than double the cuts the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has sustained over the last seven years, combined.

It undermines core public health programs that benefit all Americans—disease surveillance, health research, emergency preparedness, and chronic disease prevention. It hampers the ability of those working on the frontlines of public health to protect and serve their fellow Americans—primary care providers, public health professionals, scientists, and caregivers. Moreover, it hits our nation’s vulnerable particularly hard, slashing or eliminating programs designed to help the poor, women, infants and children, seniors, and people with disabilities.

“This budget request would be laughable if it weren’t so dangerous,” said Emily Holubowich, Executive Director of the Coalition for Health Funding. “At best, it represents a fundamental ignorance about the comprehensive role of government in protecting and promoting America’s health. At worst, it represents a wanton disregard for America’s health security.”

The Coalition for Health Funding strongly opposes the budget put forth by the President and we call upon Congress to flatly reject it as unrealistic and untenable. Indeed, we hope lawmakers will recognize that public health and health research programs are already operating well-below 2010 levels amidst unprecedented health demands, and will once again come together to raise the spending caps, stop sequestration, and reinvest in America’s health.

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*The Coalition for Health Funding works to preserve and strengthen federal investments across the public health continuum. Founded in 1970, the Coalition’s diverse members organizations—representing nearly 100 million patients and consumers, health providers, professionals, and researchers—speak with one voice before Congress and the administration in support of federally funded health programs with the shared goal of improved health and well-being for all.*

<http://www.publichealthfunding.org>