

COALITION *for* HEALTH FUNDING

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Washington, D.C.— In response to the passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018, Coalition for Health Funding Executive Director Emily Holubowich issued the following statement:

The Coalition for Health Funding congratulates Congress on the passage of the omnibus legislation to fund the government through the end of fiscal year 2018. While there is still a long road to rebuilding our public health infrastructure, this legislation begins to reinvest in the Department of Health and Human Services with the budget relief provided by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018. It also provides much needed funding to combat the opioid crisis, which continues to plague communities all across the country.

The increases provided to health agencies in this bill are an important first step in rebuilding our capacity to both prevent and respond to public health threats, train an adequate health workforce, conduct research into new treatments and cures, and improve the delivery of care. After years of erosion, the Coalition is pleased to see that Congress has recognized the important role that all of these agencies play in keeping Americans secure and looks forward to continuing to work together to improve the nation's health.

Further, this bill represents a bipartisan compromise, largely absent of any damaging political riders that could threaten Americans' health or cause unnecessary delays in funding. Thus, the Coalition congratulates Congress on completing its work for the current fiscal year. Going forward, it is critical that Congress pass regular appropriations, on time, to avoid the uncertainty and resulting damage caused by continuing resolutions.

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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>