

COALITION for HEALTH FUNDING

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For Immediate Release: February 12, 2018

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Washington, D.C., February 12, 2018 – Coalition for Health Funding Executive Director Emily J. Holubowich issued the following statement in response to the release of the president's fiscal 2019 budget request:

The president's budget makes an important and needed investment in combatting the opioid epidemic, but shows a fundamental disregard for the comprehensive role of federal health agencies and programs in protecting and promoting Americans' health security more broadly.

Just three days ago, the President signed the Bipartisan Budget Act into law—a bill to significantly increase funding for the core functions of government, including public health and health research. Today, as influenza is claiming roughly 4,000 lives per week, the President has proposed weakening our only line of defense against health threats.

This budget undermines 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.

The Coalition for Health Funding strongly opposes the budget put forth by the President and we call upon Congress to once again flatly reject it as unrealistic and untenable. The budget deal reached just last week to raise the budget caps should be used to restore our public health infrastructure.

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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.