

# COALITION *for* HEALTH FUNDING

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## **SPENDING LEVELS TOO LOW TO MEET AMERICA'S HEALTH NEEDS**

*Bipartisan Solution Needed to End Austerity, Reduce America's Health Deficit*

Every day, in important ways most Americans don't even realize, the federal government supports public health programs that keep them safe and secure. The agencies and programs of the Department of Health and Human Services work in partnership with state and local governments, universities, hospitals and health centers, charitable organizations, private industry, and each other to detect and respond to public health threats, to expand knowledge through scientific discovery, to ensure access to essential health services, and educate the next generation of scientists, health care providers, and public health professionals.

Given the limitations imposed by the austere discretionary spending caps, the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (Labor-HHS) for fiscal year (FY) 2015 represents the subcommittee's best attempt to rebuild important health programs after years of significant cuts. However, the spending levels remain insufficient to meet our nation's mounting health demands. Under current law, the funding available to meet America's basic health needs is simply too low, forcing appropriators to work with allocations that are unrealistic and unsustainable.

"Continued austerity will do Americans more harm than good," said Emily Holubowich, Executive Director of the Coalition for Health Funding. "With deficits on the decline, it's time for Congress to lift the spending caps and address our nation's health deficit."

The Coalition for Health Funding is a nonprofit alliance working to preserve public health investments in the interest of all Americans. Our 90 member organizations together represent more than 100 million patients, health care providers, public health professionals, and scientists.

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<http://www.publichealthfunding.org>