

# COALITION *for* HEALTH FUNDING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 20, 2017

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Washington, D.C.—Coalition for Health Funding Executive Director Emily J. Holubowich issued the following statement in response to news reports that employees in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) were discouraged from using certain words in the preparation of budget documents:

*Words matter, so the Coalition for Health Funding and many of our members were seriously concerned about reports of an alleged word “ban” at HHS, especially when the “forbidden” words are in the common vernacular of the public health profession and core to the common practice of public health. What’s more concerning, however, is the continued shortchanging of public health by lawmakers both in Congress and the administration.*

*Lawmakers have not yet agreed on a deal to raise austere spending caps, as the January 19 deadline to enforce sequestration’s across-the-board cuts looms. Lawmakers have not yet agreed on how to avoid a government shutdown when the current stopgap spending measure expires on December 22. Lawmakers have not yet agreed on how to extend funding for the Children’s Health Insurance Program, community health centers, and the National Health Service Corps. And in the new \$81 billion emergency supplemental spending package, lawmakers provide less than 0.5 percent for the public health response to natural disasters. All this at a time when public health and health research funding remains below 2010 levels amid myriad, expanding health demands.*

*How we talk about public health is important. Equally if not more important is how much we invest in public health. Lawmakers must ensure that highly-skilled public health professionals have the resources they need for their important work promoting and protecting Americans’ health.*

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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>