

COALITION *for* HEALTH FUNDING

Emily J. Holubowich, MPP, Executive Director

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Dear Member of Congress,

The Coalition for Health Funding—an alliance of 97 nonprofit organizations working to promote strong investments in the public health continuum—urges you to support the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019 (BBA). This deal increases critical funding to nondefense discretionary (NDD) programs and prevents the return of sequestration’s devastating cuts.

The BBA—the fourth such deal since the enactment of the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA)—provides significant relief from the BCA’s austere budget caps and represents the largest-ever increase in base funding above sequestration levels. It not only fully replaces \$55 billion in cuts scheduled to take effect in fiscal year (FY) 2020, it also increases funding for NDD programs by \$56.5 billion over the next two years above the current level. Importantly, this deal brings a welcome end to the ill-conceived era of austerity and the BCA’s harmful sequester.

While we support the deal, it is not perfect. For example, to pay for the cost of raising the NDD and defense caps, the BBA once again extends sequestration of mandatory, nonexempt programs that was set to expire in FY 2027, including the Prevention and Public Health Fund. Such cuts reduce funding available for state and local prevention efforts, vaccinations, and other initiatives led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Nevertheless, failure of this deal would mean a continuation of all of sequestration’s deep cuts that threaten the health of all Americans by hampering critical investments in health research, leaving our most vulnerable without access to critical services, limiting the number of families with access to preventive care, exposing Americans to public health threats, and hindering our response to those threats when they arise at home and around the globe.

Thus, the Coalition for Health Funding urges Congress to vote in favor of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019—paving the path to appropriations legislation for the remainder of FY 2020 and avoiding a government shutdown or full-year continuing resolution. Once the BBA is enacted, Congress must ensure that the relief provided in this deal is distributed proportionately across the nondefense bills, and work as quickly as possible to ensure that appropriations bills for the entirety of the government are completed before the September 30 deadline.

Sincerely,



Emily J. Holubowich, MPP
Executive Director

<http://www.publichealthfunding.org>