

# COALITION *for* HEALTH FUNDING

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **15 Days is Not Enough – Flatten the Curve for COVID-19**

March 25, 2020

Contact: Angela Ostrom Voice: 202.271.8963

E-mail: [aostrom@dc-crd.com](mailto:aostrom@dc-crd.com)

**Washington, D.C.** – Coalition for Health Funding Executive Director Angela Ostrom issued the following statement in response to the public health efforts to reduce and mitigate the spread of COVID-19

*On behalf of the nearly 100 organizations represented by the Coalition for Health Funding, who make up the fabric of the American public health system, we strongly urge Congress and the Administration to support efforts to help reduce the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), limit its long-term effects on our country, and oppose the removal of physical distancing<sup>1</sup> recommendations. The COVID-19 response is a marathon; we must remain vigilant.*

*Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases stated, “I cannot see that all of a sudden next week or two weeks from now, it’s going to be over, I don’t think there’s a chance of that. I think it’s going to be several weeks.”*

*Following recommendations of public health experts to stay home and practice physical distancing is critical to containing COVID-19 and ensuring that our health care system is not overwhelmed. Suspending policies against scientific and medical advice would increase exposure to COVID-19 for individuals and subsequently health care professionals and first responders.*

*Many state and local officials have shown incredible leadership and sacrifice to further the shared goal of reducing and mitigating the spread of COVID-19 across communities, workplaces, and schools. These science-based policies are our best chance to flatten the curve, reduce the initial drain on our health system and hospitals, and protect first responders, nurses, and physicians. Health care workers and first responders are vital to our nation’s response and success in battling COVID-19; their safety should be paramount to our community and government response.*

*As response to the epidemic continues, we urge federal, state, and local leaders to follow the best public health guidance and prioritize addressing the public health emergency we are all confronting, and not prematurely lift restrictions until there is a scientifically sound justification for doing so.*

###

The Coalition for Health Funding is a nonprofit alliance working to preserve public health investments in the interest of all Americans. Our 91 member organizations together represent more than 100 million patients and consumers, health providers, professionals, and researchers.

<sup>1</sup> The Coalition for Health Funding, following advice from our mental health focused members, has taken to using the term physical distancing over social distancing.

<http://www.publichealthfunding.org>

T: 202-484-1100 • F: 202-484-1244

600 Maryland Avenue SW, Suite 835W • Washington, DC 20024