

# COALITION *for* HEALTH FUNDING

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washington, D.C. – The Coalition for Health Funding issued the following statement in response to reports that the Trump Administration is attempting to blame the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for failure to respond to the coronavirus pandemic and restructure the agency.

*The Coalition for Health Funding is alarmed to learn that Trump Administration officials are discussing narrowing or significantly changing the mission of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC is the lead agency protecting our nation's public health, and as we continue to battle the worst pandemic in a century—one that has infected over 2 million Americans and taken more than 120,000 lives—now is the time to bolster the agency, not make drastic changes to its core mission and functions.*

*Protecting the public's health during this unprecedented time should be the Trump Administration's primary objective. The best way to do this is to support the experts working tirelessly at the CDC and at state and local public health departments who are responding on the ground to the pandemic. Moreover, Americans rely on the CDC for accurate, science-based information to help keep their families safe.*

*To ensure CDC is prepared for, and able to respond to public health emergencies like COVID-19, and that it remains a model for public health agencies around the world, it must be adequately funded through regular annual appropriations. CDC's infrastructure is in immediate need of investments, not scrutiny—our public health network is hampered by antiquated data systems that rely on obsolete data sharing methods, which has had a devastating impact on our response to COVID-19. We can and must do better to support our public health infrastructure and this starts at CDC.*

*Americans' health and overall well-being benefits from a variety of CDC programs and research on diseases such as cancer, diabetes, lung and heart disease, mental health and more—not just their capability to prevent and respond to pandemics. Further, the CDC plays an integral role in prevention and the public health continuum working together with researchers at the National Institutes of Health and state and local health practitioners. It is critical that CDC remains independent, continues to have a robust public health portfolio, and is given adequate resources to carry out its mission of keeping the country safe and healthy.*

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The Coalition for Health Funding, celebrating 50 years as a leading nonprofit alliance working to preserve public health investments in the interest of all Americans. Our 92 member organizations together represent more than 100 million patients and consumers, health providers, professionals, and researchers.

<http://www.publichealthfunding.org>

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