

COALITION *for* HEALTH FUNDING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washington, D.C.— Coalition for Health Funding issued the following statement in response to the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations bill, which was approved by the subcommittee today:

The Coalition for Health Funding thanks Chair Rosa DeLauro and her colleagues on the subcommittee for their strong commitment to the public health continuum, evidenced again by the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Labor-HHS spending bill approved by the subcommittee. We are pleased that House appropriators have prioritized health security by providing \$96.4 billion for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), which is roughly \$1.5 billion above FY 2020 levels, as well as \$24 billion in emergency spending to address the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The House bill acknowledges the interconnected roles the HHS agencies play in addressing our nation's greatest health challenges. Its 2.98% increase over FY 2020 levels for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is vital in our ongoing pursuit to protect Americans from COVID-19; the 13.3% increase provided for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) supports the pipeline for new, groundbreaking cures for new infectious diseases; the 1.48% for the increase for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) ensures there are qualified health professionals who can deliver new medical discoveries and prevent people from getting sick in the first place. These are just a few of the many critical investments the House bill makes towards public health priorities, such as health research, public health infrastructure, emergency preparedness, women's and children's health, health professions training, expanded access to care, and more, at a time when they are needed most to meet the challenges posed by COVID-19.

In that regard, we hope Congress and the White House will work together this year to ensure that support for health-related agencies in FY 2021 is not undermined by arbitrary spending cap restrictions and the continuing demands of addressing COVID-19. We recognize that the FY 2021 budget caps limit the House appropriators' ability to fund critical health programs and deeply appreciate the subcommittee's commitment to prioritizing our public health system and addressing the needs of public health agencies related to the pandemic with emergency funding.

The Coalition urges swift bipartisan action on this appropriations bill to ensure agencies are properly funded going into the next fiscal year, and to avoid the damaging trend of continuing resolutions and government shutdowns.

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The Coalition for Health Funding, celebrating 50 years as a leading nonprofit alliance, works 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.