

COALITION *for* HEALTH FUNDING

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Washington, D.C. – Coalition for Health Funding Executive Director Emily J. Holubowich issued the following statement in response to the president’s budget request for fiscal year 2020:

The president’s budget once again shows a fundamental disregard for the comprehensive and interconnected role of federal health agencies and programs that protect and promote Americans’ health security through disease surveillance, health research, emergency preparedness, chronic disease prevention, and support for our nation’s most vulnerable. Importantly, it demonstrates what will happen if lawmakers fail to raise the spending caps at the end of fiscal year 2019. Allowing a return to the draconian funding levels of the Budget Control Act will be the equivalent of enacting the president’s budget—it will wipe out most of the progress realized during the last six years of bipartisan budget agreements.

The president’s budget hampers the ability of those working on the frontlines of public health to protect and serve their fellow Americans, including primary care providers, public health professionals, scientists, and caregivers. Moreover, it hits our nation’s vulnerable particularly hard, slashing or eliminating programs designed to help the poor, women, infants and children, seniors, and people with disabilities.

The Coalition for Health Funding strongly opposes the budget put forth by the president and we call upon Congress to once again flatly reject it as unrealistic, untenable, and unhealthy. We urge lawmakers to recognize that most public health and health research programs are already operating well-below 2010 levels amidst unprecedented health demands, including a resurgence of vaccine preventable diseases, an addiction epidemic, and more intense and more frequent natural disasters. Lawmakers must once again come together to improve health, raise the spending caps, and prevent devastating cuts.

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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>