

COALITION *for* HEALTH FUNDING

July 30, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, and Leader McCarthy:

The Coalition for Health Funding (CHF)—an alliance of 81 national health organizations representing more than 100 million patients and consumers, health providers, professionals, and researchers—urges Congress to protect COVID-19 relief funds allocated for public health programs and not use them as an offset for the infrastructure packages currently being developed.

Our member organizations are working together to promote strong investments in the public health continuum and recognize the critical role these programs continue to play in the country's pandemic response. We should not divert unspent relief funds to support other policy goals. These funds, which were intended to be spent over an extended period, are needed to address the growing threat posed by the Delta variant and ongoing pandemic response efforts.

While the Coalition supports investing in the country's infrastructure, particularly its public health infrastructure, we are strongly opposed to any proposals that divert already appropriated public health relief funds for other purposes. Doing so would be short sighted as federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial public health programs continue to respond to the growing number of COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations. The Delta variant is a real threat and we anticipate that, unless further investments are made to contain the virus, we will continue to face new and possibly more serious threats. Furthermore, public health agencies still require resources to increase the number of individuals vaccinated, the only way to truly put this pandemic behind us.

The Coalition is grateful for Congress' focus on the public health response to COVID-19 and strongly urges you not to reallocate appropriated public health relief funds at this critical point in our country's fight against COVID-19. Thank you and please feel free to reach out to me at emorton@dc-crd.com.

Sincerely,

Erin Will Morton

Erin Morton
Executive Director