

# COALITION *for* HEALTH FUNDING

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washington, D.C.— Coalition for Health Funding Executive Director Emily Holubowich issued the following statement in response to the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) fiscal year 2020 appropriations bill, which was approved by the subcommittee today:

*The Coalition for Health Funding thanks Chair Rosa DeLauro and other members of the subcommittee for their strong commitment to the public health continuum in the Labor-HHS spending bill. We are pleased that House appropriators have prioritized health security by providing \$99 billion for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), about \$8.5 billion more than current levels.*

*With this strong allocation, appropriators have provided all major public health agencies in the subcommittee's jurisdiction with meaningful increases, including important investments in many public health priorities—health research, public health infrastructure, emergency preparedness, women's and children's health, health professions training, expanded access to care, and more.*

*In this regard, the bill recognizes that HHS agencies have different roles in addressing our nation's mounting health demands, but they are all interconnected and important. Investment in medical research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) provides the pipeline for new cures. Americans need the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to ensure there are qualified health professionals who can move new medical discoveries into health care and public health delivery, support Americans while they're awaiting new cures, and prevent them from getting sick in the first place. Americans need the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to provide evidence on what treatments work best, for whom, in what circumstances. And Americans need the Administration for Community Living to support those who are aging and those who have disabilities, as well as their caregivers, so that they can their best life, every day.*

*The increases proposed in the Labor-HHS bill will not be possible, however, without a concerted bipartisan effort to raise the austere spending caps. We hope Congress and the White House will work together this year to avoid the scheduled \$55 billion spending cliff. Otherwise, most federal health agencies will continue to be underfunded at levels below those of fiscal year 2010 and the promise of this spending bill will not be realized.*

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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>