

COALITION *for* HEALTH FUNDING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 26, 2023

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Washington, D.C.—The Coalition for Health Funding issues the following statement regarding recent House actions on the debt ceiling.

The Coalition for Health Funding, an alliance of 83 nonprofit organizations working to promote strong investments in the public health continuum strongly opposes the House of Representatives' recent actions on the debt ceiling. The decision to cut public health spending back to Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 levels or worse, in addition to capping subsequent annual increases at a maximum of one percent will have devastating consequences for our public health infrastructure, rendering it unable to function at the level the American people deserve.

Public health funding is essential for safeguarding the health and well-being of our communities. It enables us to respond to emerging health threats, provide preventive care, and ensure access to critical health services for vulnerable populations. The significant 22% topline spending cut and spending caps passed by the House will severely diminish our ability to address pressing health challenges, such as disease outbreaks, researching new cures, mental health crises, and health disparities. Furthermore, capping spending at a maximum of one percent a year is an arbitrary and inadequate measure that fails to account for inflation, population growth, and increasing health care costs. Budgetary spending caps result in an erosion of our public health resources, leading to compromised health outcomes for millions of Americans.

The Department of Health and Human Services estimates that with a 22% cut in spending for FY 24:

- *29,000 people would be denied treatment and recovery services for opioid use disorder.*
- *The National Institutes of Health would be unable to fund 5,000 grant opportunities, slowing progress in research for diseases like cancer, Alzheimer's disease, mental illness and more.*
- *Potentially slash funding for Community Health Centers by over \$400 million, impacting over 30 million people who rely on them for diagnosis and treatment services.*

The American people want and deserve a robust and resilient public health infrastructure that is adequately funded to protect and promote their health. The Coalition for Health Funding urges policymakers to work together to ensure public health needs are met through robust funding with increases in FY 2024.

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The Coalition for Health Funding includes [83 organizations](#). It is the oldest and largest nonprofit alliance dedicated to sustained public health funding to strengthen overall public health infrastructure.