

COALITION *for* HEALTH FUNDING

January 25, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chair, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair DeLauro, Chairman Leahy, Ranking Member Granger, and Vice Chairman Shelby:

The Coalition for Health Funding—an alliance of [83 nonprofit organizations](#) working to promote strong investments in the public health continuum—writes today to underscore the importance of passing FY 2022 funding bills by the February 18 deadline and to emphasize the need for final legislation to include robust funding for health-related agencies. The alternative, a full year continuing resolution, would limit Congress's ability to exercise its oversight authority and provide the necessary increases to funding levels that would allow agencies to meet new demands, including protecting the country from the next pandemic. Specifically, the Coalition requests that Congress adopt the total funding level of \$119.8 billion for the Department of Health and Human Services that was included in the House-passed FY 2022 Labor-HHS bill.

Federal health agencies play a key role in addressing our nation's public health needs and work in partnership with state and local governments to protect and promote health in our communities. While each agency within HHS has a unique mission to respond to our nation's health demands, they are all interconnected. The House-passed legislation includes historic increases for many agencies, for example, a \$2.7 billion increase for the Centers of Disease Control, that would be critical to helping our nation respond to COVID-19 and replenish resources from programs that saw their funds diverted to address the needs created by the pandemic.

Shortchanging public health and health research programs—or cutting health programs—leaves Americans vulnerable to health threats and will not prevent public health crises from arising in the first place as we witnessed over the last two years. Biomedical research, mental health, substance use disorders, and chronic disease are just some of the many areas of public health that required urgent attention prior to the pandemic and have been negatively affected while the public health system has been focused on the COVID-19 response. While we are grateful for the funding included in the emergency appropriations packages, the only way to remedy this situation is through increased and sustained regular funding across the public health continuum.

We encourage Congress to move forward in good faith negotiations to fund the government for FY 2022 and include a strong investment in health-related agencies by providing at least \$119.8 billion to HHS. We look forward to working with Congress to support the health of all Americans. Thank you for your consideration; please feel free to reach out to me at emorton@dc-crd.com should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Erin Will Morton
Executive Director