

# COALITION *for* HEALTH FUNDING

## Statement on the House majority's Debt Ceiling Proposal

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washington, D.C – The Coalition for Health Funding issues the following statement regarding the House majority's debt ceiling proposal:

*The Coalition for Health Funding, an alliance of 83 nonprofit organizations working to promote strong investments in public health, strongly opposes the House majority's debt ceiling negotiation position unveiled yesterday. The past three years have demonstrated the need for a robust public health infrastructure that is fully funded with sustainable annual resources and not reliant on supplemental or emergency funding. The progress made in fiscal year (FY) 2023 to increase funding across public health agencies was an important step towards a robust public health system that will adequately support the health needs of all Americans.*

*Federal investments in public health should not be arbitrarily cut back to FY 2022 and then arbitrarily held to an annual increase that does not allow programs to best serve the health and well-being of Americans. The Coalition urges House leadership to consider the impacts of inflation by promoting sustained and robust increases in health funding. It is critical that annual increases are made to the non-defense discretionary funding budget because the continuum of care demands that every agency within the Department of Health and Human Services receives adequate funding. Given the importance of the agencies under the purview of the Department of Health and Human Services, any funding cuts could result in devastating consequences for Americans.*

*Cutting health programs back to FY 2022 or worse would cause irreparable damage to the country's public health system, leaving Americans without access to needed services and more vulnerable to future challenges. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, a 22% cut would result in:*

- *At least 2 million Americans would be cut off from Health Center Programs.*
- *The National Institutes of Health would support an estimated 5,000 fewer grants.*
- *Nearly 1 million people facing mental health challenges would be unable to access 988.*
- *And the rescission of COVID-19 funding would harm prevention efforts of infectious disease outbreaks.*

*The Coalition looks forward to working with the House and Senate on a bipartisan FY 2024 Labor-HHS appropriations agreement that ensures both responsible and robust funding for the essential health programs across the Department of Health and Human Services in FY 2024. We*

*must build on the investments made in FY 2023 and prioritize the American public by investing in health promotion, disease prevention, and research for new treatments and cures. This can only be done by ensuring that all HHS agencies have the resources they need to provide these essential services.*

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The Coalition for Health Funding works to preserve public health investments in the interest of all Americans. Our [83 member organizations](#) together represent more than 100 million patients and consumers, health providers, professionals, and researchers.