COALITION for HEALTH FUNDING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Erin Will Morton, emorton@dc-crd.com

Washington, D.C.— In response to the FY2025 House Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies bill, the Coalition for Health Funding issued the following statement condemning proposals to recklessly and irresponsibly cut critical investments.

The <u>Coalition for Health Funding</u>, an alliance of 86 nonprofit organizations working to promote strong investments in the public health continuum, calls on members to reject the House majority's Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (L-HHS) funding bill for FY 2025, and denounce the far-reaching proposal to radically restructure the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The funding levels the House majority has proposed for non-defense discretionary funds (NDD), including the FY 2025 Labor-HHS bill fail to meet the needs of our public health infrastructure. Slashing and burning critical investments — especially public health funding — is a shortsighted, ineffective, and irresponsible way to address the larger fiscal challenges facing our country. As one egregious example, deep cuts to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) would undercut critical efforts to identify and prevent pandemics and address ongoing and new public health emergencies. We reject the proposed radical restructuring of NIH which would result in further funding cuts to lifesaving biomedical research. We strongly oppose the House majority's plan to eliminate funding for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

The proposed funding levels in the House majority's Labor-HHS bill are unacceptable. If enacted, they will devastate the American public health infrastructure and scale back important research investments for next generation cures. The proposed cut of nearly 11% below FY 2024 spending levels will:

- Slash funding for the CDC by 22% and completely eliminate funding for vital prevention programs like the Tobacco Prevention and Control and the Center on Injury Prevention;
- Cut funding for programs like Healthy Start that support maternal and child health;
- Eliminate funding for vital investments like the Opioid Overdose Prevention program that address ongoing health crises; and
- Cut funding for state and local health departments across the country, many of which are struggling to tackle multiple public health crises.

Rather than enact these drastic cuts, the Coalition for Health Funding urges members to reverse course and build on the investments made in FY 2024 and fund the FY 2025 Labor-HHS bill at a level that meets the needs of our nation's health. We look forward to working with the Senate to achieve a higher funding allocation that invests in the American people and that will adequately support our public health agencies, leading to a healthier nation.

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The Coalition for Health Funding includes <u>86 organizations</u>. It is the oldest and largest nonprofit alliance dedicated to sustained public health funding to strengthen overall public health infrastructure.