



AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

*For science. For action. For health.*

November 13, 2023

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Public Health Association, a diverse community of public health professionals that champion the health of all people and communities, I write in strong opposition to H.R. 5894, the FY 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. This misguided bill contains drastic cuts to numerous critical public health agencies and programs and includes many other damaging anti-public health policy riders. It is simply unacceptable that the House would propose a bill that would undermine our nation's public health system following the deadliest pandemic in U.S. history.

The House bill proposes to cut more than \$1.6 billion from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and more than \$700 million from the Health Resources and Services Administration. Specifically, the bill would eliminate or severely cut funding for key programs at CDC. The bill would eliminate funding for CDC and the National Institutes of Health to conduct research into the prevention of gun violence, eliminate funding for CDC's Climate and Health and Environmental Health Tracking programs, significantly reduce funding for CDC's Public Health Infrastructure and Capacity program, global health programs, chronic disease programs and many other important programs that address the leading causes of death in the nation. The bill would also eliminate funding for the Title X Family Planning program, eliminate funding for the Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative at both CDC and HRSA and eliminate funding for HRSA programs to increase diversity in the health workforce.

In addition to drastic funding cuts, the House bill also contains numerous anti-public health policy riders that target the rights of the LGBTQ community, restrict access to abortion and other reproductive health care services and block the administration's efforts to promote equity and diversity across the federal government.

We strongly urge all members to oppose this misguided bill and any amendments that would further weaken public health provisions. Instead, Congress must work in a bipartisan manner to avoid a government shutdown and develop a FY 2024 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill that prioritizes public health and protects our communities from the many health threats our nation is facing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Georges C. Benjamin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Georges" being the most prominent part.

Georges C. Benjamin, MD  
Executive Director

