

The mission of the American Public Health Association is to improve the health of the public and achieve health equity. To realize this mission, APHA will work with members of the 116th Congress and the administration to promote policies that protect and strengthen public health systems for all communities and populations.

Increase and protect funding for vital public health agencies and programs. We are pleased that for the first time in two decades, Congress passed and the president signed the FY 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill before the end of the fiscal year, increasing important funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources and Services Administration and fully allocating the Prevention and Public Health Fund. We strongly urge Congress to build upon its FY 2019 investments in important health agencies and programs by working in a bipartisan manner to raise the current budget caps to further increase funding for vital public health programs in the FY 2020 appropriations process. APHA is joining with other public health partners to support the 22 by 22 campaign, an effort to increase funding for CDC by at least 22 percent by FY 2022. This would require an investment of \$1.5 billion over the next three years to support critical CDC programs.

We oppose any efforts to block funding for qualified health providers that provide important family planning and related preventive health services, including cervical cancer screenings, contraceptive services and tests and treatment for sexually transmitted infections. These services contribute to our nation's efforts to improve access to health care and have been critical in preventing unintended pregnancies, decreasing infant mortality, improving women's health and reducing the spread of sexually transmitted and communicable disease.

Uphold the Affordable Care Act and expand access to health coverage and services. Millions of Americans are reaping the benefits of the ACA through expanded coverage, coverage of preventive benefits, a prohibition on discriminating against people with pre-existing conditions, an extension of dependent coverage for adult children up to age 26 and progress in closing the Medicare prescription drug coverage gap. We also strongly support the Prevention and Public Health Fund, a first of its kind mandatory fund for public health and prevention activities created by the ACA. Through CDC, the fund is providing critical resources to help states keep communities healthy and safe. We continue to oppose any effort to repeal or weaken the ACA or the prevention fund, including by redirecting funds away from their intended use. APHA will also monitor efforts to further expand health insurance to the millions of individuals who still lack coverage and access to critical health services.

Address the health impacts of climate change. Climate change and extreme weather events are threatening our health today, and, if left unchecked, will lead to increases in disease and death. Immediate action can and must be taken to slow climate change and prepare the public health system to protect our communities from the negative health impacts associated with climate change. Vulnerable populations, such as communities of color, the elderly, young children, the sick and the poor, bear the greatest burden of disease and death related to climate change. We urge Congress to ensure our federal, state and local health departments and agencies have the resources and tools they need to address these challenges by adequately funding CDC's Climate and Health Program and supporting other efforts to address the negative public health impacts of climate change. We also strongly support action to address climate change by cleaning up major sources of pollution and oppose any efforts to block or weaken existing regulations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Uphold critical public health laws and regulations. We oppose any efforts in Congress to weaken or roll back important regulations and laws such as the Clean Air Act that protect the public's health, including legislation that would weaken the process for developing evidence-based public health regulations. EPA estimates that by 2030, the Clean Power Plan will prevent up to 4,500 premature deaths as well as thousands of heart attacks, asthma attacks and other air pollution-related illness. Unfortunately, the current administration is working to dismantle this critical public health regulation. Other crucial public health rules and laws have come under attack by the current administration and some in Congress, including laws and regulations that protect our water, ensure worker safety, maintain regulation of tobacco products, and provide our nation's children with healthier school meals.

Address the nation's gun violence epidemic. In 2017, more than 39,000 individuals died as a result of gun violence, and nearly 90,000 suffered nonfatal gun injuries. First, we call on Congress to provide the CDC with funding for vital research. A sound public health approach to address this public health epidemic begins with understanding the science behind the problem. Research is an essential function to achieve this understanding to make data-driven policy and programmatic decisions. We also call for action on legislation to require universal background checks for all firearm purchases in the United States.

For more information on APHA's advocacy priorities, visit: <https://www.apha.org/advocacy> or contact Don Hoppert at donald.hoppert@apha.org or Gaby Witte at gabriella.witte@apha.org.



The American Public Health Association champions the health of all people and all communities. We strengthen the public health profession, promote best practices and share the latest public health research and information. We are the only organization that influences federal policy, has a nearly 150-year perspective and brings together members from all fields of public health.

Learn more at www.apha.org.

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