



July 9, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

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 the current version of the House FY 2025 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. This misguided bill contains drastic cuts to numerous critical public health agencies and programs and includes damaging anti-public health policy riders. It is simply unacceptable that the House would propose a bill that undermines our public health system's ability to address new and existing health threats.

The House bill proposes to cut \$1.8 billion from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and \$647 million from the Health Resources and Services Administration. The bill would eliminate funding for key programs at CDC including eliminating funding for the following programs: CDC's Injury Prevention and Control Center, including the Firearm Injury and Mortality Prevention Research at both CDC and the National Institutes of Health, Climate and Health program, Tobacco Prevention and Control program, Suicide Prevention program, the Center for Forecasting and Analytics and Opioid Overdose Prevention and Surveillance activities. The bill would also significantly reduce funding for CDC's global health program. These cuts would be devastating – especially to state and local public health infrastructure as nearly 80% of CDC's base budget supports public health and prevention activities through state, tribal, local and territorial health organizations and agencies, national public health partners and academic institutions across the nation.

The House bill eliminates funding for the Title X Family Planning program at HRSA, eliminates funding for the Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative at both CDC and HRSA and eliminates funding for HRSA programs to increase diversity in the health workforce. Additionally, the bill would eliminate funding for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality which supports research to improve health care quality, reduce costs and advance patient safety.

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, block efforts to combat climate change, block the implementation of a rule to protect miners from exposure to lung disease causing crystalline silica and block the administration's efforts to promote equity and diversity across the federal government.

We strongly urge all members to oppose the bill and any amendments that would further weaken public health provisions. Instead, Congress must work in a bipartisan manner to develop a FY 2025 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, reading "Georges C. Benjamin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "G".

Georges C. Benjamin, MD
Executive Director