



September 19, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Thune, and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the American Public Health Association, a diverse community of public health professionals who champion the health of all people and communities, I write to urge you to work in a bipartisan manner to pass a short-term continuing resolution that at a minimum fully funds all critical public health agencies and programs, holds the administration accountable for spending both FY 2025 and FY 2026 funds as directed by Congress and includes provisions to permanently extend the Affordable Care Act's enhanced premium tax credits that are set to expire at the end of the year. The current CR under consideration in the House this week falls short.

This year, we have seen the Trump administration propose a FY 2026 budget that would decimate funding for agencies within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, along with a nonsensical reorganization of these agencies that simply doesn't add up and would not make America healthier. Additionally, the administration has clawed back previously approved emergency funding for critically needed state and local public health infrastructure and has frozen or rescinded FY 2025 funding previously approved by Congress. Congress must enforce its power to control federal spending and ensure that the administration spends both FY 2025 and FY 2026 funding as intended by Congress, and prevent the Office of Management and Budget from any future attempts to withhold or delay funding previously approved by Congress.

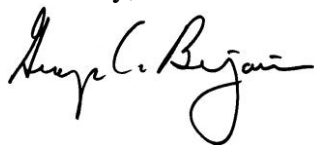
We are pleased that the Senate has again worked in a bipartisan manner on the FY 2026 appropriations process, including the FY 2026 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill. The Senate bill would maintain level funding for most HHS agencies and programs, and soundly rejects the administration's proposals to slash funding, further reduce the HHS workforce, and reorganize HHS agencies without congressional authorization. Importantly, the bill also includes additional guardrails to help ensure funding is spent by the administration as intended. We strongly urge you to use the Senate bill as the mark for the minimum acceptable funding for HHS agencies as you finalize FY 2026 spending legislation. We ask you to provide the highest possible level of funding for programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and other critical health agencies. Additionally, Congress should not allow unspent FY 2025 public health funding to

expire and should require the administration to disburse the funding immediately or extend the availability until agencies can properly allocate it for its intended purpose.

In addition, we strongly urge you to work in a bipartisan manner to include a permanent extension of the ACA's enhanced premium tax credits before the end of the year. Unless these tax credits are extended, 20 million individuals will see their premiums drastically increase, and more than 4 million individuals will lose their coverage entirely. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that extending the tax credits will result in 3.8 million additional individuals with insurance coverage by 2035. We also encourage you to rescind the provisions in the budget reconciliation legislation signed by the president earlier this year that will result in 15 million individuals losing access to health coverage through the Medicaid and ACA Marketplace cuts included in the law. APHA strongly opposed these provisions and the final bill during its consideration in Congress.

Thank you for considering our views and requests as you work to finalize the FY 2026 appropriations process. Strong bipartisan support to provide the resources needed by the nation's public health system and workforce and to expand access to affordable health coverage is more essential than ever.

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

Cc: The Honorable Tom Cole  
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
The Honorable Susan Collins  
The Honorable Patty Murray