

May 27, 2026

Emily Slack
Republican Clerk, Staff Director
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
HHS, Education, and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Kathryn Salmon
Republican Clerk, Staff Director
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
HHS, Education, and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Mike Gentile
Democratic Clerk
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
HHS, Education, and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Stephen Steigleder
Democratic Clerk, Staff Director
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
HHS, Education, and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Slack, Ms. Salmon, Mr. Gentile, and Mr. Steigleder:

As you undergo the important work of crafting the FY 2027 Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), and Education (LHHS) appropriations bill, the undersigned organizations thank you for your work toward passage of a strong bipartisan FY 2026 funding bill. The bill and its accompanying reports and joint explanatory statement not only provided robust funding for public health programs but also included important provisions that aim to ensure a well-functioning HHS and greater certainty for partners who, among other activities, conduct life-saving research, track and respond to disease outbreaks, provide front-line services to prevent chronic and infectious diseases, care for our nation's most vulnerable, and train the next generation of medical providers. The health care and public health communities look forward to working with the Committee to build upon the strong, bipartisan FY 2026 process to pass FY 2027 appropriations legislation that further invests in public health, ensures the best stewardship of taxpayer dollars, and guarantees appropriated money is spent as Congress intends.

As you know, last year, the health care and public health communities expressed concerns about atypical flows of funding, especially as it related to timely and predictable processes for grantmaking. In some cases, this led to complete loss of funding and other cases presented uncertainty and confusion for grantees. State and local public health departments, academic medical centers, and other partners rely on federal resources, and these disruptions made it difficult for them to predictably budget, plan, invest in staff and infrastructure. This ultimately led to delays in activities such as clinical trials and decreased services to keep Americans healthy and safe. We are grateful that Congress addressed many of these concerns through important provisions in the FY 2026 LHHS bill.

Notably, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2026 requires HHS to support staffing levels necessary to fulfill its statutory requirements. This is key to ensuring the agencies can best meet their missions, including the vital work conducted directly by highly specialized federal employees and the timely and robust review of grant applications. Additionally, the bill requires advanced Congressional notification of grant terminations, ensures timelier publishing of funding opportunity announcements to allow for more robust review of applications, and prevents delays of disbursements of funds to grantees.

This language has already proven helpful in the current funding year. Combined with robust investments across HHS and its agencies, it will continue to improve the workings of HHS, safeguard taxpayer dollars, create

certainty for grantees, and ultimately improve HHS' and our public health, research, patient advocacy, and provider communities' ability to improve the lives and health of the American public.

We again thank you for your work on the FY 2026 funding bill and look forward to working with you throughout the FY 2027 process. The Coalition for Health Funding (CHF) stands ready to serve as a resource as you craft the FY 2027 bills, including connecting you with our members if any questions arise. You can contact Eric Gascho, the CHF Executive Director, via email at egascho@dc-crd.com.

Sincerely,

AcademyHealth
AIDS United
Alliance for Vision Research
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Psychological Association Services
American Public Health Association
American Society for Microbiology
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Nephrology
Arthritis Foundation
Association for Psychological Science
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Population Centers
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Big Cities Health Coalition
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
Coalition for Health Funding
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Endocrine Society
EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences
Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)
HIV Medicine Association
IC&RC
Infectious Diseases Society of America
March of Dimes
Muscular Dystrophy Association

NASTAD

National AHEC Organization

National Association of County and City Health Officials

National Council for Mental Wellbeing

National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association

National Multiple Sclerosis Society

National Network of Public Health Institutes

PA Education Association

Parkinson's Foundation

Population Association of America

Safe States Alliance

Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America

Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine

Society for Neuroscience

Society for Public Health Education

Society for Women's Health Research

Society of Behavioral Medicine

Susan G. Komen

Tourette Association of America

Trust for America's Health

UsAgainstAlzheimer's