COALITION for HEALTH FUNDING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washington, D.C.— The <u>Coalition for Health Funding</u> (CHF), an alliance of nearly 100 nonprofit organizations working to promote strong investments in the public health continuum issues the following statement regarding the House Appropriations Committee's fiscal year (FY) 2026 Labor-HHS-Education bill and continues to ring the alarm on unspent FY 2025 HHS funding.

While the Coalition for Health Funding (CHF) is pleased to see the House Appropriations Committee rejected proposed cuts to the National Institutes of Health and other agencies, we are very worried about the consequences that will result from steep cuts to agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health and the complete elimination of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Further, the long-term trend of level funding many other agencies is a step backwards, failing to keep pace with population growth and rising costs.

The Committee is right for not using the appropriations process to reorganize HHS and consolidate NIH through mass elimination of Congressionally created agencies, institutes, and programs. We continue to stress that any restructuring should be carefully considered through authorizing committees with ample opportunity for Congress to hear from experts and impacted parties.

We urge Congressional leaders to continue working together on a bipartisan, bicameral basis to pass a full-year FY 2026 Labor-HHS-Education funding bill that builds on previous investments in public health programs. Importantly, such negotiations must recognize the stark reality that our nation's public health system currently faces, as the use of various budget gimmicks (and threats of new ones in the future) has prevented agencies from fully spending Congressionally approved funding that will expire on September 30. Allowing this funding to expire — and not creating guardrails to prevent this from happening next year — will have drastic consequences on state and local health departments, service providers, scientists, researchers, and ultimately the American public who rely on their important work.

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The Coalition for Health Funding includes <u>over 90 organizations</u>. It is the oldest and largest nonprofit alliance dedicated to sustained public health funding to strengthen overall public health infrastructure.