

COALITION for HEALTH FUNDING

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Washington, D.C.— Today, Coalition for Health Funding Executive Director Emily Holubowich issued the following statement in response to the Trump Administration's request to rescind roughly \$15 billion in unspent funds:

"The Coalition for Health Funding urges Members of Congress to swiftly reject President Trump's rescissions request—a package that would strip much needed funding from vital investments such as public health and health research, while jeopardizing future spending agreements and setting a dangerous precedent of reneging on hard-fought budget deals.

"The bulk of the president's request proposes eliminating \$7 billion in budget authority from the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). This would reduce the overall funding available for the appropriations process below the levels established in the recent budget deal, a clear back-door effort to renege on bipartisan law and under-fund public health programs and health research. Rescinding these funds has no positive impact on our nation's deficit, as suggested, and would only serve to limit Congress's ability to adequately fund programs that protect and promote our nation's health.

"It is also worth noting that the rescission of Ebola funding will hurt the development of infrastructure overseas that will prevent a resurgence of Ebola and other infectious diseases. It is sadly ironic that this rescissions request would also cut \$252 million from global Ebola response, just as health officials in Congo confirm a new outbreak of the deadly disease has resulted in 17 deaths. Turning a blind eye to a public health emergency puts lives at risk, both abroad and here at home."

"It perplexes me how anyone would think these proposed rescissions are a good idea. Congress should simply reject the President's request to rescind funding."

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The Coalition for Health Funding is a nonprofit alliance working to preserve public health investments in the interest of all Americans. Our 95-member organizations together represent more than 100 million patients and consumers, health providers, professionals, and researchers.