

COALITION *for* HEALTH FUNDING

Emily J. Holubowich, MPP, Executive Director

August 25, 2011

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Coalition for Health Funding respectfully urges you to recognize our nation's public health programs as a critical national priority in the FY 2012 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. Such federally funded programs represent a valued investment in our citizens, our communities, and our nation.

These programs allow federal agencies to discover cures, ensure the safety of our drugs, food, water, and air, prevent disease, protect and respond in times of crisis, train health care professionals, and provide care to our nation's most vulnerable. These and other critical public health activities are such a part of daily living they are often invisible and almost always taken for granted. They are core functions of the federal government—personal responsibility and vigilance alone are not sufficient to keep America safe and healthy.

In the professional judgment of our more than 70 member organizations—together representing 100 million patients, health care providers, public health professionals, and scientists—deeper cuts to health funding will do more harm than good. Even before reductions in health funding were enacted in FY 2011, cuts at the federal level were harming individuals and communities; 23,000 state and local public health professionals have already lost their jobs and many critical public health services have been eliminated. In addition, the Budget Control Act immediately calls for nearly \$1 trillion in cuts over 10 years in its first phase. These cuts come on the heels of cuts imposed in FY 2011 and only further decimate critical programs that ensure a strong public health infrastructure.

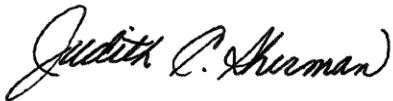
Spending cuts not only compromise the health and well-being of all Americans, but also America's position as a global leader in prosperity, discovery, and military capability. Evidence abounds—from the Department of Defense to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce—that healthy Americans are stronger on the battlefield, have higher academic achievement, and are more

<http://www.publichealthfunding.org>

productive in school and on the job. When the federal government invests in people's health, we learn better, produce better, compete better, and defend better.

Continuing our nation's long-standing, bi-partisan commitment to public health will show dividends. We hope in your ongoing deliberations you will consider the value of these health investments and make health a priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith C. Sherman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Judy Sherman
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily J. Holubowich". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E".

Emily J. Holubowich
Executive Director