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## House appropriations subcommittee advances \$108B HHS funding bill

The legislation largely maintains NIH funding but slashes CDC funding by one fifth.



BY: **CARMEN PAUN** | 09/02/2025 08:18 PM EDT



DeLauro (left) and Aderholt disagreed strongly about the House GOP plan to fund the Department of Health and Human Services. | Francis Chung/POLITICO

Republicans on a House Appropriations panel advanced a bill Tuesday that would cut the HHS budget by 6 percent for the fiscal year that starts next month, far less than sought by President Donald Trump but enough to prompt united Democratic opposition.

In a 11-7 vote, the House Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee approved [\\$108 billion in funding for HHS](#) — a \$7 billion decrease from fiscal 2025. Trump had asked for a [\\$31.3 billion cut](#).

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“The bill before you today balances the need for responsible fiscal stewardship while maintaining key investments in biomedical research, schools and public health,” said Rep. [Robert Aderholt](#) (R-Ala.), the subcommittee chair.

Aderholt highlighted what he said was an increase in support for rural hospitals and biodefense through the bill and the elimination of diversity, equity and inclusion programs promoted by the Biden administration, as well as the defunding of Planned Parenthood.

“It prohibits any federal funding from going toward enforcing gender identity politics or social or moral or surgical interventions to change a child's sex,” Aderholt said about the bill.

“This isn’t right-wing extremism. This is mainstream public opinion,” he added.

Democrats opposed the bill and used the occasion to voice their anger about other Trump administration actions, including the firing last week of CDC Director Susan Monarez.

“I cannot support this never-ending attack on our health care, public school system and our workers,” said Connecticut Rep. [Rosa DeLauro](#), the panel’s ranking Democrat.

**The details:** The bill would keep funding for the National Institutes of Health, the largest funder of health research in the world, at \$48 billion, according to a [summary Republican appropriators released Monday](#).

Republicans intend to maintain “America’s edge in basic biomedical research for cures to cancer, Alzheimer’s disease, and rare diseases” and support Trump and Health Secretary

Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s "priority of increasing research for other chronic diseases impacting Americans," the document says.

The NIH funding is also "a necessary counter to China's growing threat in basic science research," the document says.

But DeLauro decried the bill's nearly \$500 million cut to the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health, which the Biden administration set up as part of NIH to back high-risk, high-reward projects.

The House bill would reduce funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention by nearly a fifth, or some \$1.7 billion, to refocus it on communicable diseases "rather than social engineering," according to Republicans' bill summary. The White House proposed slashing the agency's budget by roughly half, also aiming to refocus it on infectious diseases.

Research!America, a lobbying group for universities, disease advocacy groups, physicians' societies and other organizations that work with the government, praised the panel's decision to maintain funding for the NIH, but said it was alarmed by the CDC cuts.

"These proposed cuts, coupled with recent turmoil at the agency's leadership, endanger our nation's health," the group said in a statement released before the subcommittee's vote on the funding bill.

The group also asked the committee to sustain the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, an HHS division that tries to improve the quality and safety of health care. Republican appropriators said they were eliminating it because its work was duplicative of other agencies'.

Though Trump prioritized efforts to combat HIV and AIDS in the U.S. during his first term, the House bill would cut funding for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program, which provides care and support for low-income people with HIV, by some \$500 million from the current \$2.5 billion. The bill also wouldn't provide funding for the CDC's HIV prevention program, which received about \$1 billion in fiscal 2025.

The HIV Medicine Association, which represents health care professionals working on HIV, said it thought [the bill would "devastate the HIV response in communities"](#) across America, upending four decades of progress in ending the HIV epidemic."

"The first Trump administration proposed a new initiative to end the HIV epidemic, and the second Trump administration on the other hand has abandoned the fight," DeLauro said.

The subcommittee bill would provide \$100 million to Kennedy's Make America Healthy Again initiative, which Republican appropriators said would allow him "to invest in prevention and innovation programs for rural communities, telehealth resources for chronic care, and nutrition services."

The bill also would provide \$515 million for rural health, which includes increased funding for rural hospitals, specifically targeting facilities at risk of imminent closure and increasing medical residency opportunities, according to the Republican appropriators' bill summary.

The tax cut legislation Republicans enacted in July previously included a \$50 billion fund to help rural hospitals cope with new requirements in the law that Medicaid recipients work, volunteer or go to school, which alongside new restrictions on tactics states have used to increase their federal Medicaid funding are expected to significantly reduce Medicaid funding flowing to hospitals. The state-federal insurance program serves low-income people.

**What's next:** The spending bill now goes to the full House Appropriations Committee, which is tentatively expected to mark it up on Sept. 9, Aderholt told POLITICO, though that could change.

It's uncertain if the bill will become law since it would need to pass both the House and Senate as well. One panel member, Democrat [Mark Pocan](#) of Wisconsin, predicted it would not: "We know this bill will never become law. We're going to continue to play fantasy Congress for the next several weeks."

Lawmakers have less than a month until government funding expires on Sept. 30, increasing the odds of a government shutdown or of a stopgap funding patch.

Senate appropriators in late July passed [an HHS funding bill increasing the department's budget](#) for the next fiscal year by \$446 million compared to this year.

*Mackenzie Wilkes contributed reporting.*



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