

Hill Day Run of Show and Talking Points October 23, 2024

RUN OF SHOW

1. Team leader opens meeting and facilitates introductions by calling on each teammate and having them introduce themselves.
2. Hill staff introduces themselves.
3. Team leader provides a short overview of the Coalition.
4. The team can divide the talking points on the role public health plays in keeping Americans healthy, the importance of investing in public health, the need to fund the government on time and avoiding a shutdown/CRs, and why we must avoid future budget caps.
5. Each participant/member organization should share how the current House L-HHS bill will harm public health and how a shutdown or a CR would negatively affect them. If they do not have examples, see **APPENDIX**.
6. Team leader closes meeting by offering to be a resource and promising follow-up materials to keep the conversation going.
7. Remember to leave your business cards!

TALKING POINTS

1. **Team Leader Introduces the Coalition for Health Funding**

- The Coalition for Health Funding is an alliance of 86 national non-profit member organizations representing 100 million patients and consumers, health providers, professionals, and researchers. We have a good representation of our diverse membership here today, so let's go around and introduce ourselves.
- **EACH PARTICIPANT GIVES NAME, ORGANIZATION. ALLOW HILL STAFF AN OPPORUTNITY TO INTRODUCE THEMSELVES.**

2. **The Value of Public Health**

- **To truly improve the health of all Americans, we need a strong and sustained investment across all of our public health agencies and programs**—all federal agencies at HHS that support discretionary health programs to improve public health.
 - Investments in medical research at NIH are important, but on their own won't improve health.
 - You need the FDA to approve new treatments.
 - And you need HRSA and SAMHSA to ensure we have qualified health professionals who can move discoveries into health care and public health delivery.
 - We need AHRQ to fund research that teaches us how to provider better care and maximize these treatments, which will lower health care costs
 - And you need public health prevention programs at the CDC and at the state and local level to keep Americans healthy by giving them tools to manage their conditions or prevent illness.

3. Avoid Cuts to Public Health

- Americans deserve a strong and resilient public health infrastructure that is adequately funded to protect and promote their health. A healthier America is only achievable through:
 - strong and sustained investments in biomedical, behavioral, social, and health services research,
 - community-based prevention strategies,
 - health care services for the medically underserved, and education of a robust health professions workforce.
- The Coalition for Health Funding **supports the Senate’s Labor-HHS topline number** of \$231.34 billion for FY25.
- Currently, the House FY25 Labor-HHS bill provides \$198.4 billion, **a cut of \$24.6 billion—or 11 percent—below FY24 which would devastate public health programs. Additionally, the House L-HHS bill would:**
 - Cut funding for the CDC by 22%
 - Slash funding for vital maternal and child health programs like Healthy Start
 - Completely eliminate funding for programs like the Opioid Overdose Prevention program.
- **ROUND ROBIN OF PARTICIPANTS SHARING AN EXAMPLE OF HOW THEIR ORGANIZATION’S MEMBERS OR CONSTITUENTS ARE IMPACTED BY THE HOUSE FY25 LHHS BILL’S CUTS.**
- **IF AN ORGANIZATION DOES NOT HAVE AN EXAMPLE, FURTHER EXAMPLES ARE INCLUDED IN THE APPENDIX.**

4. No Shutdowns or CRs

- A Federal government shutdown is dangerous for public health. It compromises research, public health programming, and data collection.
- Government shutdowns result in decreased program capacity, halted research efforts, and negatively impact public health
- Refer to the CHF one pager for additional examples.
- CRs are also detrimental to research and public health programs. Unreliable and unpredictable funding streams hurt the nation’s scientific enterprise and damage America’s competitiveness globally.
- Some examples of how a shutdown and CRs negatively impact the public health continuum are:
 - **ROUND ROBIN OF PARTICIPANTS SHARING AN EXAMPLE OF HOW THEIR ORGANIZATION’S MEMBERS OR CONSTITUENTS ARE IMPACTED BY A SHUTDOWN OR CR.**
 - **IF AN ORGANIZATION DOES NOT HAVE AN EXAMPLE, USE AN EXAMPLE FROM THE APPENDIX.**

5. Reject Budgetary Caps

- Inadequate funding for our nation’s health programs puts the health and well-being of all Americans at serious risk. Limiting spending with arbitrary caps fails to account for inflation, population growth, and increasing health care costs.
- **By passing adequately funded annual appropriations on time, this country’s public health systems can continue to grow and provide Americans with the tools to lead long, healthy lives.**

6. The Ask

- **Finalize the FY25 appropriations process.**
- **Fund all public health agencies and programs at the highest possible dollar amount.**
- **Reject arbitrary and damaging funding caps for FY26 and beyond and instead provide funding for public health at a level that meets our nation’s health needs and challenges.**
- At this point, we would welcome any questions or suggestions on how we may be helpful to your office during this process. We hope you’ll reach out to us as a resource as decisions are being made about health funding.

APPENDIX

- Shutdowns and CRs force grant-funding agencies like the National Institutes of Health to adopt conservative funding policies, holding back on investments in new areas of life-saving research and damaging existing ongoing research efforts.
- Funding challenges that health departments face because of shutdowns and CRs also impact the non-profit organizations they partner with as they impede the ability to move goals and objectives forward. Progress at non-profits will slow, or worse, come to a halt entirely.

For many Coalition for Health Funding members who rely on grant funding, shutdowns and CRs make it difficult to keep staff motivated on grant deliverables when they are worried about their job security. **These staff members are acutely aware that if grant funding is not appropriated, their own job security is at risk.**

- In addition to creating deep cuts to public health, the House FY25 Labor-HHS bill would also:
 - Completely eliminate the CDC’s Injury Prevention Program
 - Eliminate the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
 - Radically restructure the National Institutes of Health
 - Drastically cut funding for state and local health departments across the country, many of which are struggling to tackle multiple ongoing health crises.