

October 4, 2018

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II  
Secretary of Health and Human Services  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Azar,

The undersigned 110 health organizations are deeply concerned that funding to care for immigrant children—those forcibly separated from their parents at the border, and those detained in custody for extended periods of time—as a direct result of the administration’s immigration policies, is being drawn directly from money appropriated in fiscal year 2018 for public health and medical research. There is widespread support throughout the community to care for immigrant children and families, but redirecting funding from already underfunded programs is deeply concerning. We urge the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to make public its plan to respond to and recover from this public health crisis, and to request that Congress provide the funding necessary, through annual or supplemental appropriations legislation, to ensure the health and wellbeing of children and families in the Department’s care.

Historically, the HHS Secretary has used his or her statutory authority to transfer funding to support new or unexpected priorities. What makes the current situation different, however, is it is the administration’s own policies that have necessitated these significant transfers. Further, the administration has proposed other policy changes that would allow for the indefinite detention of immigrant families and would have significant financial and human costs.

The decision to use the Secretary’s authority to cut public health and medical research programs is understandable given the immediacy of this crisis. We fear, however, that funding transfers to date are just the beginning. To the community’s knowledge, the administration has not yet submitted a comprehensive funding request to Congress to avoid future transfers, which is particularly concerning given that lawmakers have finalized funding for fiscal year 2019.

The health community is deeply troubled by the significant financial and human costs associated with the administration’s immigration policies. The undersigned organizations look forward to learning more about the Department’s plans and we stand ready to support the Department in securing the resources necessary to care for immigrant children and families.

Please contact Coalition for Health Funding Executive Director Emily Holubowich at [eholubowich@dc-crd.com](mailto:eholubowich@dc-crd.com) or 202-484-1100 if you require additional information, or have any questions.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
AcademyHealth  
Advocates for Youth

AIDS United  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association for Dental Research  
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American College of Clinical Pharmacy  
American College of Physicians  
American Dental Education Association  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Health Quality Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Organization of Nurse Executives  
American Physiological Society  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Society for Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology  
American Society of Transplantation  
American Society on Aging  
American Thoracic Society  
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence  
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research  
Association of Accredited Public Health Programs  
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations  
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care  
Association of Public Health Laboratories  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Autism Society of America  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
Big Cities Health Coalition  
Black Women's Health Imperative  
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Children's Mental Health Network  
Coalition for Health Funding  
Cooley's Anemia Foundation  
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists  
DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Digestive Disease National Coalition  
Endocrine Society  
Every Child By Two  
First Focus  
Frannie Peabody Center  
Global Healthy Living Foundation  
Healthy Teen Network  
Hep B United  
Hep Free Hawaii  
Hepatitis B Foundation  
HIV Medicine Association  
Immunization Action Coalition  
Immunize Nevada  
Impetus - Let's Get Started LLC  
In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
Jeffrey Modell Foundation  
Jewish Women International  
Justice in Aging  
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.  
Lymphatic Education & Research Network  
March of Dimes  
Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health  
NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals  
NAPHSIS  
NASTAD  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Birth Defects Prevention Network  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
National Coalition of STD Directors  
National Council on Aging  
National Hispanic Medical Association

National Network of Public Health Institutes  
National Network to End Domestic Violence  
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium  
National Organization for Women  
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence  
National Women's Health Network  
New Voices for Reproductive Justice  
NMAC  
Physician Assistant Education Association  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Prevent Blindness  
Prevention Institute  
Public Health Management Corporation  
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition  
Safe States Alliance  
Society for Public Health Education  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative  
The Arc of the United States  
The Consortium  
The Gerontological Society of America  
Treatment Action Group  
Trust for America's Health  
UCLA Department of Health Policy and Management  
Ujima Inc.: The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community  
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity  
Women of Color Network, Inc.