

Hello MPHA Members. The following are the *Action Alerts* that you can use to contact your members of Congress. Also, the August Legislative Update is included.

Current Action Alerts

- [Urge EPA to maintain the Endangerment Finding to protect the public from the health threats of climate change](#)
- [Urge your members of Congress to support strong public health funding in the FY 2026 appropriations process](#)
- [Urge your members of Congress to oppose the Trump administration's efforts to cut our nation's public health workforce](#)

Senate Appropriations Committee advances FY 2026 health funding bill

On July 31, the Senate Appropriations Committee voted to pass the FY 2026 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill by a vote of 26-3. The bill generally ignores the Trump administration's FY 2026 budget request to Congress, which calls for massive cuts and reorganizations of key health agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the National Institutes of Health, among others. The bill would provide nearly \$9.1 billion for CDC, a small reduction from the current year's funding. The Trump administration has called for reducing CDC's budget by more than 50%. The bill would fund HRSA at \$8.8 billion, ignoring the administration's proposal to eliminate the agency entirely. The bill text, report and a summary can be found on the [Senate Appropriations Committee website](#). The House is tentatively scheduled to take up its version of the bill when it returns from recess in early September.

On July 25, APHA joined more than 580 organizations in [sending a letter to House and Senate Appropriations Committee leaders](#), urging them to provide an FY 2026 allocation for the Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee that ensures all of the important programs funded by the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill have adequate resources to achieve their goals.

The programs and services funded by the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations subcommittee have a profound impact on health and well-being, child development, educational and skills attainment, labor force participation and economic productivity. Unfortunately, these programs have historically been shortchanged in the appropriations process, especially after spending caps were first enacted in 2011 and subsequently put in place for 2024 and 2025. At a time when it is unclear if the Trump administration plans to release all of the FY 2025 funding already enacted by Congress, and when Congress has

just instituted cuts through the budget reconciliation process to health, education and other areas funded by this bill, increased funding across the Labor-HHS-Education programs is necessary to address long-standing needs.

The groups also urged the appropriators to reject any proposals in the FY 2026 appropriations bills that would seek to restructure or reorganize federal agencies through the appropriations process or through any unilateral administrative action.

APHA blasts Trump administration's proposal to roll back EPA's climate change endangerment finding, greenhouse gas reduction rules for vehicles

On July 29, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency director Lee Zeldin announced that the EPA will seek to rescind its own 2009 Endangerment Finding that climate change and greenhouse gases threaten human health. This proposal undermines decades of science and rulings by federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court. Instead of protecting the public's health from the dangerous and deadly effects of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, this action will exacerbate the health threats we are already seeing from climate change, including increased heat waves, more air pollution and deadly wildfires. Additionally, the administration also issued a proposal to repeal greenhouse gas emissions standards from passenger vehicles and heavy-duty trucks. This proposal ignores the fact that the transportation sector is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. [APHA issued a statement](#) condemning the proposed rollbacks and highlighting the importance of the many EPA climate-related rules that are working to combat climate change and reduce dangerous air pollution.

In addition, EPA is also proposing two rules that would repeal important limits on greenhouse gas emissions and other hazardous pollutants, like mercury, from the power sector. Tell EPA you oppose these rules and support maintaining the existing standards.

Reducing carbon emissions and other dangerous air pollutants from the power sector, which is the second-largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S., is an essential and necessary protection for our nation as well as a healthy, intact environment for current and future generations. In 2024, [it was estimated](#) that the new rule to reduce greenhouse gas emission from the power sector will avoid 1,200 premature deaths; 870 hospital and emergency room visits; the onset of 1,900 cases of asthma; 360,000 cases of asthma symptoms; 48,000 school absence days; and 57,000 lost workdays and will achieve an estimated \$370 billion in health and climate benefits between 2024-2047. [Tell EPA you oppose any effort](#) to repeal this critical rule by Aug. 6.

Weakening life-saving Mercury and Air Toxics Standards takes away vital health protections from babies, children, pregnant people and other at-risk groups. The updated MATS

standards are essential to build upon the proven successful track record of the MATS that have slashed emissions of toxic air pollutants, including mercury, particulate matter, arsenic and lead. Millions are breathing cleaner air because of these protections under the Clean Air Act. [Tell EPA you oppose any effort](#) to repeal this critical rule by Aug. 6.

APHA urges Trump administration to step up efforts to end the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza

On July 25, [APHA sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio](#) reiterating its support for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza and the immediate release of all hostages. The deadly conflict has already taken the lives of more than 50,000 people, and both Palestinian and Israeli citizens remain under a daily threat of more violence. Millions of Palestinians, including children and other vulnerable people, face malnutrition, starvation, risks from infectious diseases that easily spread under the current conditions, and a lack of access to critical health services. In the letter, APHA calls on the Trump administration to ensure that the United States works to end the conflict and ensure all parties work in good faith to negotiate a lasting peace in the region as soon as possible. Recent reports from the region continue to highlight the devastating health impacts of the war. Millions of civilians in Gaza continue to struggle to receive medical attention, food, water and other desperately needed humanitarian assistance.

According to the United Nations, more than one in three people are going multiple days without food, leading to more deaths from malnutrition and starvation. In addition, innocent civilians have been killed while simply trying to access food and other humanitarian aid for their families. Health facilities in Gaza are also in crisis. The World Health Organization has reported that 94% of hospitals in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed during the conflict. APHA urged the administration to call for the end of all restrictions on humanitarian aid into the region and to ensure that all health facilities and workers are protected to allow all individuals in the region to have safe access to essential humanitarian aid and life-saving health services that are so desperately needed.

APHA advocates for transparent food labels

On Jan. 16, the Food and Drug Administration published a proposed rule titled [Food Labeling: Front-of-Package Nutrition Information](#). On July 15, APHA joined 27 other organizations and 12 public health professors in [submitting comments](#) on the proposed rule with recommendations impacting front-of-package nutrition information. Specifically, the comments urge FDA to adopt a mandatory front-of-package labeling standard that includes information about saturated fat, sodium and added sugars. This would align

labels with Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommendations and help consumers make healthier, more informed food choices.

On July 24, APHA joined 33 other health and nutrition organizations in [a letter](#) endorsing the Transparency, Readability, Understandability, Truth, and Helpfulness (TRUTH) in Labeling Act of 2025. The bill, introduced Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), would direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to finalize FDA's propose rule on front-of-package labeling, and would help streamline nutrition labels to show when a food product is either high, medium, or low in sodium, added sugars, or saturated fat. The bill would also expand the label requirement to apply to food for children and infants as well as adults. The letter outlines that dozens of other countries already have similar label requirements, and that studies show the requirement has a dual effect: helping consumers make healthier purchasing choices and pushing food manufacturers to produce healthier products.

Get involved in the Speak for Health campaign as Congress goes on recess

By Aug. 4, both the House of Representatives and Senate will be on recess - making now the perfect time to contact your elected officials about taking action on public health. Here are some things you can do to get involved:

- ✓ Familiarize yourself with [APHA's 2025 advocacy priorities](#).
- ✓ APHA members have sent over 10,000 action alerts this year - keep that momentum going and [send a message to your member of Congress](#) on public health funding or environmental protections.
- ✓ Check your representatives' websites to find when their next town hall is so that you can attend and [ask about their commitment to public health](#).
- ✓ In the mood to write? Write an op-ed to submit to your local paper on the topic of public health in your community. You can request an op-ed template from us by emailing speakforhealth@apha.org.