



AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

*For science. For action. For health.*

April 9, 2019

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Public Health Association, a diverse community of public health professionals who champion the health of all people and communities, I write to express our support for H.R. 2021, the Investing for the People Act of 2019. This important legislation would raise the austere spending caps under the final two years of the Budget Control Act of 2011 to provide an additional \$88 billion in much needed funding for nondefense discretionary programs in FY 2020, including programs critical to improving and protecting the public's health.

Congress has reached bipartisan agreements to raise the spending caps and prevent devastating cuts to nondefense discretionary programs in the past and it is essential that members come together in a bipartisan manner again to ensure adequate funding is available for these important programs. If Congress fails to act to raise the caps, nondefense discretionary funding will be cut by \$55 billion below current levels in FY 2020. Such cuts would devastate many important public health programs including those that prevent chronic and infectious diseases, protect the nation's food supply, protect our communities from environmental health threats and ensure a strong and diverse public health workforce.

We encourage all members of the House to support this legislation to begin the path forward toward reaching an agreement with the Senate and the administration to prevent these senseless cuts to nondefense discretionary programs. The health of the American public depends upon strong and adequately resourced public health programs.

Thank you for your attention to our views on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Georges C. Benjamin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Georges C. Benjamin, MD  
Executive Director