



September 21, 2023

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Speaker McCarthy, and Leader Jeffries,

As Congress approaches the September 30 deadline to finalize its work on Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 without a continuing resolution, the Friends of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) implore you to come to a bipartisan agreement that provides robust funding to critical federal statistics programs and keeps the federal government open and operating.

NCHS conducts research vital to our understanding of underlying health trends across the nation, and we are grateful given the challenging fiscal circumstances that the Senate Appropriations Committee approved \$187.397 million, an amount that will ensure that the agency has level funding for FY24. While this funding amount will not provide the agency with the increased resources needed to better meet the needs of policymakers, public health officials, researchers, and the American public, it will ensure the continuation of important programs, including the collection of vital records and execution of important population surveys like the National Health Interview survey and the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

A government shutdown could have drastic consequences for the work of NCHS. NCHS provides information on topics, including chronic disease prevalence, health disparities, teen pregnancy, infant mortality, maternal mortality, including racial inequities in maternal death rates, emergency room use, causes of death, and rates of insurance through a set of efficient, multipurpose data collection systems. A shutdown could harm our nation's ability to have up-to-date data that accurately reflects the current public health situation in the United States. Key stakeholders could be unable to access timely data, slowing critical decision making and hampering efforts to respond to public health challenges. Additionally, NCHS would need to make up for lost time following a shutdown, while also seeing a continual decrease in purchasing power that has not kept up with inflation.

While a long-term continuing resolution is not in the best interests of NCHS, a government shutdown will have a more unnecessary harmful impact on data collection and utilization efforts. We ask Congress to

work in a bipartisan manner to complete its work on FY 2024 and provide at least the \$187 billion approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee in a final conferenced bill. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Friends of NCHS Chair Steve Pierson at [pierson@amstat.org](mailto:pierson@amstat.org) or Vice Chair Meghan Riley at [mriley@dc-crd.com](mailto:mriley@dc-crd.com).

Thank you for your consideration of this request. With your support NCHS will continue to shape our understanding of Americans' health with [objective, relevant, accurate, and timely information](#).

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association  
AcademyHealth  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association for Dental, Oral, and  
Craniofacial Research  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American College of Clinical Pharmacy  
American College of Obstetricians and  
Gynecologists  
American Heart Association  
American Pediatric Society  
American Society for Nutrition  
American Sociological Association  
American Statistical Association  
Association for Diagnostics and Laboratory  
Medicine  
Association of Maternal & Child Health  
Programs  
Association of Medical School Pediatric  
Department Chairs  
Association of Population Centers  
Consortium of Social Science Associations

Council of Professional Associations on Federal  
Statistics  
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and  
Brain Sciences  
Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research  
ICPSR, the Data Consortium  
International Association of Coroners and  
Medical Examiners  
Lakeshore Foundation  
March of Dimes  
National Association for Public Health Statistics  
and Information Systems  
National Association of Medical Examiners  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse  
Practitioners  
National Safety Council  
Pediatric Policy Council  
Population Association of America  
Prevent Blindness  
Safe States Alliance  
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Society for Women's Health Research  
Well-Being and Equity in the World

Cc:

The Honorable Patty Murray  
The Honorable Susan Collins  
The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
The Honorable Shelly Moore Capito  
The Honorable Kay Granger  
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
The Honorable Robert Aderholt