

## PRESS RELEASE

January 31, 2025

### ***Suspending Federal Support Threatens Lives, Jobs, and U.S. Security***

Recent precipitous actions related to government financing from the U.S. executive branches raise significant concerns about their potential economic, humanitarian, and security impacts. Interruptions in funding and potential reductions in federal support for global health, domestic social programs, and humanitarian initiatives—along with cuts to funding for critical research and oversight—pose serious risks to the security and economic prosperity of the U.S. and its allies. These actions run counter to an admirable history of U.S. leadership in global health that has received broad bipartisan support across many administrations.

Global health threats have not, and do not recognize borders. Reducing support for disease surveillance, international cooperation, and pandemic preparedness heightens the risk of future outbreaks, leaving the U.S. more vulnerable to health crises, supply chain disruptions, and economic instability.

Drastic and unplanned cuts to funding for highly impactful and evidence-based programs such as PEPFAR (the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) suddenly endanger millions of lives by disrupting access to HIV/AIDS treatment, disease prevention, and essential medical care. These disruptions increase the risk of viral resistance, disease transmission, and worsening health outcomes. They will reverse decades of progress in health outcomes in the US and globally.

Global health programs drive innovation and employment in research, healthcare, and pharmaceuticals. They deliver strong economic, security and diplomatic benefits. Conversely, reductions in funding for medical research and pandemic preparedness could lead to job losses and economic setbacks in industries that contribute to both health and national security and reduce access to future life-saving technologies.

Restrictive refugee and asylum policies may leave displaced individuals, especially those fleeing violence and persecution, without access to essential healthcare services. Ensuring safety for these populations is vital to maintaining public health standards and upholding human dignity.

Environmental policies also have enormous, positive, economic, health and social impacts. Strengthening commitments to environmental sustainability is essential to mitigating climate-related threats, including respiratory illnesses, heat-related conditions, vector-borne diseases, wildfires, floods, and droughts. It is in the U.S. interest to continue to contribute to mitigating these risks for all.

Decisions that limit international collaboration, scientific communication, and public health funding have far-reaching consequences. Strengthening partnerships between governments, academic institutions, and international multi-lateral organizations are crucial for advancing medical research, disease prevention, economic and global health security. Additionally, withdrawing from international organizations creates a leadership gap that other nations may fill, shaping policies in ways that may not align with U.S. interests.

CUGH acknowledges the importance of evaluating and strengthening the systems that support both national and global health priorities. As the U.S. strives to advance the well-being of its citizens, CUGH strongly urges the adoption of policies that are evidence-based, guided by scientific research, and grounded in humanitarian principles and that will continue to benefit the US and the world.

#### About the Consortium

The Consortium of Universities in Global Health ([www.cugh.org](http://www.cugh.org)) is an alliance of higher education institutions, associations and partners dedicated to advancing global health through research, education, service, and advocacy. The consortium remains nonpartisan and is committed to fostering an informed and engaged global citizenry.

For more information, please contact: Dr. Keith Martin, Executive Director, CUGH.  
kmartin@cugh.org 202-974-6363