



November 17, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito and Tammy Baldwin
Chair and Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support for COPD in the FY26 Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations Bill

Dear Chair Capito and Ranking Member Baldwin:

On behalf of the COPD Action Alliance, we would like to thank you for including report language accompanying the Fiscal Year 2026 Labor, HHS and Education appropriations bill that highlights the burden of COPD. This report language encourages the CDC to improve its response to COPD and further suggests that CMS explores developing service delivery models to increase high quality COPD care.

The COPD Action Alliance is a coalition that unites diverse stakeholders to advance patient-centered Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) policy and increase COPD awareness. Our goal is to bring attention to the need for greater public awareness and improved provider education.

COPD is the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S., yet it remains underdiagnosed and undertreated. An estimated 30 million Americans are affected, including one in every eight Americans over the age of 45, but only 17 million have been diagnosed; as a result, the disease claims the lives of more than 130,000 Americans annually. COPD also faces severe issues with awareness; despite its prevalence, many people are unaware of the warning signs. Vulnerable populations, such as veterans and first responders, who face an exceptionally high risk for developing COPD, often are unaware of this fact, which contributes to the issue of underdiagnosis. These data points exhibit how harmful and widespread the impact of COPD is in the United States, as well as how minimal the level of awareness is regarding the disease. Despite this, efforts to prevent and treat COPD receive disproportionately low federal funding compared to other leading causes of death.

As Congress completes the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations process, we urge you to reiterate the importance of better COPD education and the need for service delivery models that will increase access to high quality care.

We thank you again for your help in securing meaningful support for the treatment and prevention of COPD during the appropriations process. For more information on the COPD Action Alliance, visit our [website](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Hoffman". To the right of the signature, there are three small blue dots arranged vertically.

Sarah Hoffman
Director, COPD Action Alliance

Co-Signing Organizations:

Allergy & Asthma Network
Alpha-1 Foundation
American Association for Respiratory Care
American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST)
Association of Pulmonary Advanced Practice Providers
Breathe PA
Breathe Southern California
California Chronic Care Association
Caregiver Action Network
Center for Patient Advocacy Leaders (CPALs)
Chronic Care Policy Alliance
COPD Foundation
Emphysema Foundation of America
GAAPP GLOBAL ALLERGY & AIRWAYS PATIENT PLATFORM
HealthyWomen
NCNW Pennsylvania State Coalition
NOVA ScriptsCentral
Patients Rising
Respiratory Health Association
WipeDiseases Foundation