

07.31.2025

# Senator Baldwin Releases Statement on Bipartisan Bill to Fund Labor, Health, and Education Departments for Fiscal Year 2026

Senate compromise increases funding for NIH, safeguards Department of Education, & invests in and restores services at 988

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Ranking Member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and Human Services, released the following statement after the full committee advanced her Fiscal Year 2026 funding legislation to the Senate floor. In addition to funding critical programs that the Trump Administration has tried to cut or withhold funding from – including Head Start, the National Institutes of Health, and Job Corps – the bipartisan bill takes further steps to mandate the timely delivery of Congressionally approved funding and adequate staffing levels at federal agencies to carry out the mission of these programs.

“At the end of the day, my North Star is delivering for the people of Wisconsin. While no one got everything they wanted in this bill, I’m proud to say we found common ground and are doing just that to address the challenges facing working families across the country. From investing in cancer and Alzheimer’s research, to protecting the Department of Education and early education funding, to strengthening my 988 Suicide Lifeline, we came together to deliver for our constituents,” **said Senator Baldwin**. “This bill not only puts Donald Trump’s budget in the trash, it also reins in this President’s efforts to dismantle and withhold funding for critical programs our constituents rely on. This bill takes on the kitchen table issues families face by addressing childcare costs, connecting more Americans with good-paying jobs, and taking on the mental health and opioid epidemics. While it is not perfect, I look forward to getting it over the finish line on behalf of Wisconsinites who want to see a Washington that works for them.”

As Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and Human Services, Senator Baldwin writes the bill that funds the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. A summary of the bill is available below.

## **Key Points & Highlights – Department of Health and Human Services**

**Department of Health and Human Services (HHS):** The bill provides \$116.6 billion, an increase of \$446 million in discretionary funding for the Department of Health and Human Services over fiscal year 2025.

The bill rejects the Trump administration’s harmful efforts to defund and dismantle critical work that HHS oversees—maintaining important funding for programs across HHS that touch the lives of nearly every American, while providing targeted increases to important bipartisan priorities. The bill includes new requirements to help ensure adequate staffing and the timely awarding of funding to prevent completely unnecessary delays and disruptions in programs that families and communities across the country count on—from child care and Head Start to substance use and mental health—and that support lifesaving research into cures and treatments for devastating diseases.

**Biomedical Research:** The bill provides \$48.7 billion in discretionary funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH)—an increase of \$400 million to propel lifesaving and life-changing cures and treatments across NIH’s 27 institutes and centers and the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H).

The bill rejects the catastrophic 40% cut to NIH proposed by President Trump, and instead of slashing funding for biomedical research, includes a:

- \$150 million increase for cancer research;
- \$100 million increase for Alzheimer’s disease research;
- \$30 million increase for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases;
- \$30 million increase for the Office of Research on Women’s Health;
- \$25 million increase for ALS research, fully funding the \$100 million as authorized by the ACT for ALS Act of 2021;
- \$20 million increase for the IMPROVE Initiative for research on maternal mortality;
- \$12 million increase for BRAIN Initiative research;
- \$10 million increase for diabetes research;
- \$10 million increase for rare disease research;
- \$9 million increase for the Undiagnosed Diseases Network; and a
- \$5 million to implement the National Parkinson’s Project.

The bill also rejects the Trump administration’s proposal—and illegal efforts—to cap indirect cost rates at 15%, which would devastate biomedical research, and continues a longstanding provision that prohibits NIH from implementing such a cap. The bill also rejects the Trump administration’s misguided elimination of programs across NIH by maintaining funding for HIV vaccine research, training programs that support the next generation of researchers, and the Safe to Sleep campaign, among others.

The bill also includes, as part of a manager's amendment, a new provision that would prevent implementation of the Office of Management and Budget's misguided policy for NIH to fund significantly more of its multi-year research grants in one lump sum. This poorly thought-out new policy would significantly cut the number of research grants NIH awards this year and next year—according to NIH's own estimate, by 40% in fiscal year 2025, reducing the percentage of cancer research grants it will award from 13% to 7%, and Alzheimer's disease grants from 18% to 6%. OMB's attempt this week to explicitly and illegally withhold billions in funding and halt all remaining NIH research grants through the rest of the year makes its intentions crystal clear. More needs to be done to protect NIH research programs, but the provision included in this bill is an important step in preventing the Trump administration from decimating the biomedical research enterprise Congress has built in a bipartisan manner over decades, which has long been the envy of the world and drives medical innovation that has saved millions of lives.

The bill also includes a new authority for NIH to address loopholes in sexual harassment reporting and strengthen accountability by requiring institutions to complete investigations into concerns about harassment, bullying, retaliation, or hostile working conditions, even if the alleged perpetrator leaves their current position and is no longer employed by the institution. It provides the NIH Director the authority to decline the transfer of an award to a different institution, helping to close the "pass-the-harasser" loophole. It also provides the NIH Director the authority to share investigation reports on an as-needed basis with any institution that receives NIH funding.

**Child Care and Early Learning Programs:** The bill includes \$8.8 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)—an \$85 million increase over fiscal year 2025; and \$12.4 billion for Head Start, an \$85 million increase. Much more needs to be done to address our broken child care system and ensure every working family can find and afford child care, which is critical for businesses and our economy too—but sustained annual increases in these programs are critical in the meantime. The bill also sustains funding for Preschool Development Grants, which President Trump proposed eliminating in his budget request.

**Addressing Substance Use Disorders and Mental Health:** The bill sustains funding to address the rising toll of opioid overdoses fueled by fentanyl, maintain access to substance use disorder prevention and treatment, and improve access to mental health services.

The bill rejects President Trump's proposed cuts to SAMHSA programs and maintains SAMHSA as its own, independent agency to ensure substance use and mental health remain a priority at HHS. The bill includes targeted increases to SAMHSA programs, including \$2.0 billion, a \$20 million increase over fiscal year 2025, for the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant; \$1.6 billion for State Opioid Response grants, a \$20 million increase; and \$145 million for the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program.

It protects key investments in mental health programs by sustaining funding for the Mental Health Block Grant, Project AWARE, Mental Health Awareness Training, and the National Childhood Traumatic Stress Network. The bill also provides \$535 million, a \$15 million increase over fiscal year 2025, for the 988 Suicide Prevention Lifeline, to address continued increases in demand as 988 has been stood up over the last several years, and it restores dedicated funding for the LGBTQ+ youth specialized services line that President Trump eliminated this summer.

Additionally, it includes approximately \$180 million in investments within the Department of Education to address the shortage of school-based mental health professionals and services in our nation's K-12 schools.

**Essential Health Care Programs:** The bill protects investments in health care access and affordability and the health care workforce—maintaining investments in core programs, including \$1.86 billion for Community Health Centers and \$128.6 million for the National Health Service Corps. The United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) is fully funded, and the bill affirms support for the mission and scientific integrity of the task force. The bill also includes a \$9.3 million increase in rural health programs to boost recruitment of health care providers to practice in rural areas and support rural hospitals.

Importantly, the bill provides a \$5 million increase in funding for the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) Modernization Initiative to strengthen and reform the nation's organ donation and transplant system. There are more than 100,000 individuals on the organ transplant waitlist, and this initiative, which began during the Biden administration, will allow the OPTN to better serve patients and families and strengthen accountability.

**Public Health:** The bill rejects the approximately \$4 billion—or 50%—cut to CDC programs proposed by President Trump's budget request. CDC helps keep Americans safe and healthy by protecting against diseases and supporting states and local communities as they do the same. It also rejects the Trump administration's haphazard proposal to dismantle CDC, which risks Americans' health and safety, and requires HHS to support staffing levels to carry out the CDC's programs.

The bill also helps support state and local health departments by sustaining critical programs across the CDC, including funding for chronic diseases, the Office of Smoking and Health, injury prevention programs (including firearm injury and mortality research), global health programs, and immunization and infectious disease prevention programs.

**HIV/AIDS:** The bill includes \$613 million for the Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative, which provides high-need jurisdictions with prevention and treatment services for people at high risk for HIV transmission. This includes \$220 million within the CDC's Domestic HIV/AIDS Prevention and Research programs to develop and deploy innovative data management



solutions, increase access to PrEP, and better detect and respond to HIV clusters, and \$128.9 million for the CDC's global HIV/AIDS program. The bill also provides full funding for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program, including dental services and training for health care practitioners, two initiatives that President Trump sought to eliminate in his budget proposal.

**Women's Health:** The bill sustains funding for reproductive health programs, including Title X and the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program, which President Trump eliminated in his budget proposal. The bill also increases investments in maternal health across CDC and NIH with a \$53 million increase for programs that aim to address maternal mental health, prevent pregnancy-related deaths, support best practices to improve maternal health outcomes, and invest in women's health research. The bill also provides funding for a new initiative to support survivors of sexual assault and creates a new menopause initiative within AHRQ to translate research best practices into clinical practice for women. Importantly, the bill includes increases in funding for the Maternal Mental Health Hotline and maternal health safety initiatives through the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health program.

**Pandemic Preparedness and Biodefense:** The bill includes \$3.6 billion for the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR). It sustains funding for the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA); Project Bioshield; the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS); and Industrial Base Management and Supply Chain (IBMSC) activities to help ensure that critical resources in the public health supply chain—including raw materials, medical countermeasures, and ancillary supplies—are manufactured in the United States. It also includes \$4 million to support a new program to improve emergency medical services and trauma care during a public health emergency.

**Administration for Community Living:** The bill maintains funding for the Administration for Community Living as its own agency within HHS to help support seniors and Americans with disabilities so they can live and participate fully in their communities. This includes providing \$1.1 billion for senior nutrition programs and providing targeted increases for family caregiver programs.

**Home Heating and Cooling Assistance:** The bill includes \$4.045 billion for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), a \$20 million increase over fiscal year 2025, to help low-income households heat and cool their homes.

### **Key Points & Highlights – Department of Education**

**Department of Education:** The bill provides \$79.0 billion in discretionary funding for the Department of Education.

The bill rejects the Trump administration's call to eliminate the Department of Education and maintains funding across the Department, including funding for K-12 formula and competitive grant programs, CTE and adult education programs, federal student aid, postsecondary competitive grants, and civil rights enforcement to provide the resources needed to help schools improve educational outcomes for students and protect all students from discrimination.

The bill includes new requirements that the Department of Education maintain the staff necessary to ensure it carries out its statutory responsibilities, including carrying out programs and activities funded in this bill in a timely manner. The bill also includes new requirements for the Department of Education to make formula grants available to states and districts on time. While this should be unnecessary, this step prevents any administration from withholding key funding for students and creating chaos for states and schools, which distracts educators from helping kids thrive.

**Supporting Elementary and Secondary Education Students:** The bill strengthens investments in foundational formula grant programs for elementary and secondary education and in public schools, teachers, and students—rejecting the \$4.5 billion cut and the proposed consolidations in President Trump's budget request for a new \$2 billion block grant program.

The bill boosts funding for Title I-A grants by \$50 million above the fiscal year 2025 level to \$18.457 billion. More than 80% of the nation's school districts receive these funds, and nearly 25 million students go to schools receiving Title I funding. The bill also provides \$15.224 billion, an increase of \$50 million over fiscal year 2025, for all three IDEA Special Education State grant programs and retains each as a separate program. IDEA state grant programs support more than seven million students and children with disabilities and their families who receive IDEA services through these programs. The bill also includes new guardrails to prevent the administration from moving these formula grant programs to other federal agencies and disrupting the efficient and effective use of federal funds intended to improve outcomes for students.

The bill also continues current investments, except for a few targeted reductions, across a range of other important formula and competitive grant programs authorized to improve teaching and learning in elementary and secondary schools, rejecting President Trump's proposed elimination of \$1.5 billion in total funding for nine important programs.

**Career and Technical Education (CTE):** The bill provides \$1.45 billion for CTE grants and \$729 million for adult education grants and appropriates such funding to the Department of Education to carry out these programs, rejecting President Trump's call to eliminate federal support for adult education. The bill includes new provisions requiring both CTE and adult education formula grants to be awarded in a timely way to prevent any administration from withholding these critical funds.

**Higher Education:** The bill provides a total maximum Pell Grant award of \$7,395 for the 2026–2027 award year, rejecting President Trump's proposal to cut the Pell grant by over \$1000. This coming school year, Pell Grants are expected to help over 7 million students at all stages of life pursue postsecondary education and further their careers. The bill also rejects

President Trump's proposals to eliminate a range of postsecondary education programs.

Instead, the bill sustains funding for Federal Work Study and the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant that provide additional need-based aid to students to help them afford postsecondary education. The bill also includes \$65 million for the Teacher Quality Partnership program and \$15 million for the Hawkins Centers of Excellence to help educator preparation programs address educator shortages. It also continues other investments available to recruit, develop, and retain an effective and diverse teacher and school leader workforce, including \$90 million for the Supporting Effective Educator Development program.

The bill sustains funding for TRIO at \$1.191 billion; \$388 million for GEAR UP; \$75 million for the Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program (CCAMPIS); a \$10 million for the Basic Needs Program; and \$40 million for the Postsecondary Student Success Grant Program to help students prepare for and succeed in post-secondary education. The bill also sustains funding for Title III and V programs that support HBCUs, MSIs, Tribal colleges, and other institutions. President Trump had proposed to eliminate CCAMPIS, TRIO, GEAR UP, International Education, the Basic Needs Program, and the Postsecondary Student Success Grant, among other programs in his budget request.

The bill also sustains funding for the administration of student aid programs. This funding supports a wide range of activities, including: implementing the FAFSA; disbursing student aid; ensuring services are available to student loan borrowers; implementing more affordable repayment plans; and fixing longstanding issues in student loan forgiveness programs. Finally, the bill includes important requirements to help Congress conduct oversight over the new higher education provisions contained in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

**Protecting Students from Discrimination:** The bill rejects President Trump's proposed cut of \$49 million, or one-third of the total budget, for the Office for Civil Rights. Instead, the bill maintains the current budget level of \$140 million and requires the Department to support the staffing levels necessary for OCR to fulfill its statutory responsibilities.

**Advancing Education Research, Statistics, and Assessments:** The bill maintains current funding of \$793 million for the Institute of Education Sciences for all programs and activities of IES funded in fiscal year 2024, rejecting the massive reduction of \$532 million or 67% proposed in President Trump's budget request. The Trump administration's significant workforce reductions and program delays at IES this year have caused it to fail to meet statutory requirements. The bill requires the Department to support staffing levels necessary for IES and the National Center for Education Statistics to fulfill their statutory responsibilities.

### Key Points & Highlights – Department of Labor

**Department of Labor (DOL):** The bill includes \$13.7 billion in discretionary funding for the Department of Labor. The bill rejects the harmful cuts proposed by the Trump administration, including the administration's proposal to block grant our nation's workforce training programs.

**Workforce Development:** The bill includes \$2.9 billion for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) formula grants, protecting essential investments made in recent years. It includes a new directive requiring DOL to award such funds in a timely manner. It provides \$285 million for Registered Apprenticeships and \$105 million for YouthBuild. The bill also rejects President Trump's call to eliminate Job Corps and instead provides \$1.76 billion for Job Corps. Rejecting President Trump's proposed cuts for many of these programs and continuing funding for these key workforce development programs will help grow the economy, provide workers with the skills they need to secure good-paying jobs of the future, and help American businesses compete globally.

**Worker Protection:** The bill rejects drastic reductions proposed in President Trump's request and sustains key investments in DOL's worker protection agencies charged with enforcing requirements for employers to pay workers what they earn and provide safe and healthy workplaces. The bill maintains \$191 million in funding for the Employee Benefits Security Administration, which is responsible for, among other things, ensuring private sector employment-based group health plans comply with mental health and substance use disorder parity requirements. The bill also maintains \$260 million for Wage and Hour Division to support the Division's work to recover wages workers are owed and to combat exploitative child labor. Last year, the Division secured more than \$273 million in back wages collected and damages for nearly 152,000 workers nationwide.

The bill also provides \$111 million, \$41 million more than President Trump's budget request, for the Bureau of International Labor Affairs to enforce labor provisions of free trade agreements and trade preference programs and combat international child labor and forced labor. Finally, the bill rejects the proposed elimination of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs and Women's Bureau, providing \$106 million and \$23 million, respectively.

### Key Points & Highlights – Related Agencies

**Social Security Administration (SSA):** The bill includes \$15.0 billion for SSA's administrative expenses—an increase of \$594 million over fiscal year 2025. This is \$100 million more than President Trump's budget request to help address staffing challenges and improve service to the public. The Trump administration has single-handedly created completely unnecessary chaos at SSA that has weakened Americans' ability to get the benefits they are owed—and it has continually misled the public with easily disproven claims about widespread fraud. Instead of admitting to its lie, SSA has doubled down and pursued poorly planned and implemented policy changes. The American public and the beneficiaries SSA serves have paid the price, with unacceptable wait times to access the benefits and services Americans deserve,



and that they have literally earned through a lifetime of work. Instead of chasing conspiracy theories, the administration should focus on actually improving services and addressing service delivery challenges impacting Americans across the country. The resources in this bill will help SSA do just that.

**AmeriCorps:** The bill rejects President Trump's elimination of AmeriCorps and sustains funding for all of AmeriCorps' grant programs by providing a total of \$1.25 billion to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) to administer these programs. This bill also includes new provisions requiring any administration to award AmeriCorps state formula funding in a timely way and includes new requirements to ensure CNCS will award competitive grants in a timely fashion, too. The bill will support AmeriCorps members serving in communities across the country and working to address pressing challenges, including responding to natural disasters, assisting in schools, supporting our veterans, promoting economic opportunity, and conserving and protecting the environment.

**Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB):** As a result of Congressional Republicans' approval of the Rescissions Act of 2025—the first ever partisan rescissions bill signed into law—no funds are provided in the bill for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the more than 1,500 locally owned public TV and radio stations nationwide that have, for over 50 years, been supported by CPB funds and infrastructure investments. Republicans' devastating rescissions bill will particularly hurt 120 stations that rely on CPB for more than 25% of their revenue, who are now scrambling to find new sources of support or significantly reduce programming or close in the coming months.

**Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS):** The bill continues to invest \$295 million in the nation's libraries and museums through programs of the Institute of Museum and Library Services and requires IMLS to fund specified programs and activities at amounts identified in the Committee report.