

SHEA Legislative Advocacy – April 2025

ISSUE PRIORITIES

Trump Executive Orders and Administrative Actions Tracker

- Relevant court challenges include
 - HHS-wide reduction in force
 - Termination of research grants
 - Impoundment of congressionally approved funding for federal agencies and programs

HHS Reorganization

- Elimination of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
- Elimination of the Office of Infectious Diseases and HIV Policy (PACCARB staff)
- Elimination of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
- Pending proposal to eliminate the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
- Pending proposal to eliminate the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR)
- HHS-wide reduction in force by ~20%
- Establishment of the Agency for a Health America

Federal Funding

- Impoundment of approved Congressional funding intended for NIH
- Research grant funding cancellations (targeted research: DEI, health equity, gender, marginalized communities, race)
- Termination of \$11 billion COVID-19 supplemental state grant funding (ELC programs)
- Rumored “skinny budget” may contain an increase for emerging infectious diseases at CDC
- Proposed elimination of the Prevention and Public Health Fund (would eliminate \$52 million for state HAI programs funded by Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity state grants)

Federal Communications

- Most agency and departmental communications offices eliminated; to be centralized under Agency for a Healthy America and at HHS
- Proposed termination of PACCARB (no staff support remaining) and HICPAC
- Delayed meeting schedule for ACIP, future uncertain

Pandemic Preparedness and Outbreak Response

- Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act expired in September 2023 – this act authorizes the federal government to respond to an epidemic or pandemic in the US and grants access to resources including but not limited to the Strategic National Stockpile.
- Uncertainty of federal funding for state outbreak response has led to widespread layoffs in certain states, termination of infectious disease prevention programs, and challenges with response to the ongoing measles outbreak.

WHAT HAS SHEA DONE?

- [Media Statements](#)
 - 4/3/25 - SHEA Statement on HHS Reductions in Force
 - 3/27/25 - Reduction in Force and Funding Cuts at HHS Will Undermine Public Health and Patient Safety
 - 2/27/25 - SHEA Encourages Rescheduling Postponed Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Meeting
 - 2/18/25 - Make America Healthy Again Agenda at Risk with Reduction in Force Across Federal Health Agencies
 - 2/13/25 - SHEA Supports Key Federal Advisory Committees
 - 2/12/25 - SHEA Advocates for Responsible NIH Funding Reforms
 - 2/3/25 - HHS External Communications Pause Prevents Critical Updates on Current Public Health Threats
 - 1/21/25 - Global Public Health Collaboration Benefits Americans, SHEA Urges Continued Support of the World Health Organization
- ID/IP/PH Collaborations (MySHEA log in required)
 - SIGN ON: Oppose any reduction or elimination of the Prevention and Public Health Fund during the budget reconciliation process- (Trust for America's Health) ([LINK](#))

- JOINT LETTER: ID societies on HHS Secretary nominees (IDSA) ([LINK](#))
- SIGN ON: Support for Appropriations for the CDC's National Wastewater Surveillance System (American Society for Microbiology) ([LINK](#))
- SIGN ON: Support for ACIP (Partnership to Fight Infectious Disease) ([LINK](#))
- SIGN ON: Fully fund AHRQ in FY 2026 appropriations (Friends of AHRQ Coalition) ([LINK](#))
- JOINT LETTER: APIC, SHEA, IDSA, PIDS Letter to HHS to Support HICPAC (APIC) ([LINK](#))
- JOINT LETTER: HHS Reorg Letter Senate version (IDSA) ([LINK](#))
- SIGN ON: FY 2026 NIAID Funding (ASM) ([LINK](#))
- SIGN ON: Senate HELP and House Energy & Commerce committees urging a more robust CDC response to the ongoing measles outbreaks (AAP) ([LINK](#))
- Funding for Federal Advocacy – FY 2026 Priorities
 - Existing Programs
 - NHSN
 - Antibiotics Resistance Solutions Initiative
 - Advanced Molecular Detection program
 - CDC ELC program: healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance
 - Data Modernization Initiative
 - AHRQ top-line
 - Proposed Funding
 - NIAID funding for infection prevention and antimicrobial stewardship
 - Monitoring
 - Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics
 - NETEC National Special Pathogens System of Care (NSPS)

MOBILIZING SHEA ADVOCATES

- SHEA Grassroots 2025 Events
 - January 19 – 2024 “Wrapped” year in review and advocate recognition
 - January 30 – Advocate Update and Discussion Forum
 - February 24 – Virtual Hill Visits Advocate Training (recorded)
 - March 2025 – SHEA Virtual Hill Visits
 - April 24 – SHEA Town Hall “HHS Cuts & What They Mean for Public Health”

- May 12 - First 100 Days Advocate Update and Discussion Forum
- March and April Virtual Hill Visits
 - 34 advocates
 - 33 meetings
- 9 Opportunities for SHEA Advocacy
 1. Contact your elected officials
 2. Stay informed – bi-weekly Policy Update emails
 3. Tell us your story
 4. Submit an editorial to your local newspaper
 5. Maintain your membership profile
 6. Tell a friend
 7. Engage your institution's government affairs office
 8. Volunteer for focus groups, calls to action, etc.
 9. Educate yourself and colleagues