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City Attorney Zach Klein Statement as Federal Judge Orders Trump Administration to Restore Funding to Fight Infectious Disease Outbreaks

Columbus filed lawsuit following cuts that led to CPH terminating 11 infectious disease staffers amid measles outbreaks

COLUMBUS, OH— Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein issued a statement as a federal court judge issued a preliminary injunction blocking U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Director Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. from cutting congressionally-approved funding for local infectious disease programs, including more than \$3.1 million to Columbus Public Health.

“This decision allows local health departments to be able to do their jobs to respond to infectious disease outbreaks and prevent needless deaths of children and our most vulnerable,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein.

“We will continue to urge the Court to make this injunction permanent, and send a message to Washington that cities will not back down as this administration recklessly defies Congress, ignores the rule of law, and endangers the health and safety of children and families in Ohio and across the nation.”

The Trump administration’s elimination of \$11.4 billion in March 2025 for infectious disease grants threatened the availability of life-saving immunizations for children and residents and made it harder for health departments to effectively respond to outbreaks of deadly diseases impacting children and the most vulnerable. In Columbus, this meant \$3.1 million in funding cuts, the early termination of 11 infectious disease specialists, and the elimination of more than \$100,000 for the City’s CelebrateOne initiative to decrease infant mortality and improve maternal health.