

Coburn Amendment 3399 to Eliminate Wasteful CDC Spending

This amendment **does not cut CDC funds**, but instead **proposes responsible restrictions on future funds** to prevent the CDC:

- from hiring a full-time, morale-boosting ombudsman (the *temporary* ombudsman costs taxpayers \$1,053 a day — and costs \$2,800 to process one case/complaint, while less than 1% of CDC employees have actually used the office); and
- from purchasing *additional* “mood-enhancing” rotating pastel lights, zero-gravity chairs, or dry-heat saunas for the CDC’s fitness centers (the CDC has already spent \$35,000 on these items for its new Atlanta fitness center).

This amendment, which has already passed in the House, will ensure appropriate congressional oversight so that every CDC dollar goes to the nation’s most pressing health and biosecurity needs.

Why pay for expensive and duplicative morale service employees aren’t using?

- CDC has already spent \$370,000 to hire temporary ombudsmen to improve employee morale and the quality of life at CDC.
- Yet, according to CDC, over a five-month period the temporary ombudsmen saw less than 1% of all employees (averaging a cost of \$2,800 per case/complaint).
- The current, one-year contract has been extended through the end of the calendar year at a cost of \$1,053 a day and CDC is currently seeking a full-time ombudsman, at a GS-15 salary of between \$107,800 and \$140,200 per year, or \$1.1-\$1.4 million over the next 10 years.

Are “mood-enhancing light shows,” fancy luxury chairs & saunas integral to CDC’s mission?



- For its new Atlanta fitness center, CDC’s Office of Health and Safety spent taxpayers’ money for the following:
 - \$2,000 for 2 rotating pastel lights, described as “mood-enhancing,”
 - \$3,500 for 2 zero-gravity chairs (\$1,750 each), and
 - \$30,000 for 2 “dry-heat saunas” (\$15,000 each).

- A CDC Spokesman, when asked by *USA Today* about these lavish expenditures, said they weren't a waste of money, stating, "We have first-rate facilities for first-rate employees ... After years of neglect, we finally have what we need to move forward and **accomplish our mission**" (emphasis added).
- Because the money has been spent and the mood-lighting and saunas are already in the facility, the amendment merely will prevent CDC from purchasing *additional* rotating pastel lights, zero-gravity chairs, or dry-heat saunas for CDC fitness centers.

Coburn Amendment 3399 won't Cut CDC Funds, it will free up funds for key CDC priorities:

- By merely prohibiting certain expenditures, without cutting any funds to CDC, this amendment will help ensure that every CDC dollar goes to the nation's most pressing health and biosecurity needs.
- Taxpayers appreciate Congressional oversight that helps federal agencies prioritize their spending.